CASES

IN THE

ACUTE RHEUMATISM

AND THE

GOUT;

WITH

CURSORY REMARKS,

AND THE

METHOD OF TREATMENT.

By THOMAS DAWSON, M.D.

Cum esse oportet, manus non habeo; oportet progredi, non sunt mihi pedes; oportet dolere, tum & pedes mihi sunt & manus.

SUETON.

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TO

SAMUEL KAY, M. D.

OF MANCHESTER:

DEAR SIR,

HOW much ſoever I value, and ſhould think myſelf honoured, by the approbation of a Perſon of acknowledged merit, and long experience in the Medical profeſſion, I ſeek not a pretence to that honour in the inſcription of this Work. After the favourable reception which, in former impreſſions, it has met with from the *Public*, I cannot be ſolicitous to procure it any *private* patronage.

To you, Sir, it is preſented *ſolely* in teſtimony of my regard to your merit as a Phyſician, my e-

 ſteem

ſteem of your character as a Man, and a Chriſtian, and in grateful acknowledgement of the obligations which a friendly and humane diſpoſition, in the exerciſe of your profeſſion, has conferred on myſelf and family.

May you be rewarded, Sir, in the remnant of your days, with the Bleſſing of that Health, which you have ever wiſhed, and aſſiduouſly ſtudied, to procure for others; and, when Life ſhall be no longer a Bleſſing, with that peaceful and quiet termination, which is moſt ſurely preſaged by an uniformly virtuous and peaceful deportment through life.

I am, Sir,

Your faithful and moſt obedient

Humble Servant,

HACKNEY,
Jan. 1, 1781.

T. DAWSON.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE reception, which the publication of the following Caſes, &c. hath met with, is, to the Author, a pleaſing proof, that it hath been conſidered in the extenſive view, he wiſhed it. His Caſes in the Gout were, in ſome later impreſſions, brought down, juſt as they aroſe, and without any ſelection, to September 1774. To add to them would be unneceſſary. They have abundantly juſtified his ſentiments and his practice.

With reſpect to the *enlarged* doſe of the Medicine, particularly recommended in this Tract; he wiſhes not to be underſtood, to having *fixed* it, as if it was *always* neceſſary to be given in ſo large a quantity, in order to its operating with any effect. Far otherwiſe. In more weak and delicate temperaments, beneficial and

good effects may reſult from it, when given in one half, or even one third of the quantity only.

But, the moſt material thing, and what the Author has moſt anxiouſly preſſed upon the Reader, is, a ſedulous attention to the proper time *When*, and manner *How* this medicine is to be given, without which, the moſt efficacious remedies will ſoon fall into diſcredit.

Next to this, the Author muſt requeſt his readers to obſerve; That, when he ſpeaks of *Offending matter*, *Gouty matter*, *humour*, &c. he is never to be underſtood as ſpeaking of the *Cauſe* of the Gout or Rheumatiſm, but of the *Effect* produced by, or Symptoms attendant on thoſe diſorders. — Sir Iſaac Newton has a ſimilar caution, by which the Author would illuſtrate his meaning, reſpecting the uſe of the word *Gravitation*. This, he was aware, might be conſtrued into a *Principle*, or *Cauſe* inherent in Matter, which might much miſlead (and, indeed, notwithſtanding his expreſs caution againſt being ſo underſtood, has miſled) his readers. But

words

words of ſome kind muſt be made uſe of. And while we are ignorant (and ignorant we certainly are) of the *Cauſe*, he thinks it beſt, to uſe the language of the ancient *Phyſicians*.

He hopes no Apology will be neceſſary for any repetition of ſentiment which may now and then occur: preſuming, that the Phyſician of long experience will ſcarcely peruſe the whole, of what is now offered to the Public. And to the Noviciate in medicine, it ſeems altogether needleſs to apologize for this; judging, that it is hardly poſſible to ſet the ſame object, if an important one, too frequently before his view, or in too many lights.

The Author would only add farther, that he hath not omitted to take ſome notice of every Writer, of any conſequence, on the following ſubjects, who hath appeared ſince the firſt publication of this Tract, as well as of ſeveral others who have gone before him. Should this anſwer no other purpoſe, it may, at leaſt, lay the foundation of an HISTORICAL ACCOUNT of the ſeveral Writers on the Gout and Rheumatiſm; whence it will

will appear at one view, and in a ſatisfactory manner, *What*, or whether *Any*, improvements have been of late made on theſe ſubjects; it being much more common to read of, than to find, any real *improvements* in Medicine. But the taſk, however neceſſary on theſe, as well as on other ſubjects, he willingly reſigns to thoſe who may have more leiſure, or Inclination for Writing.

Lord BACON adviſes, "To revive the "Hippocratic method of compoſing nar- "ratives of particular Caſes, in which the "nature of the diſeaſe, the manner of "treating it, and the conſequences, are "to be ſpecified: to attempt the cure of "thoſe diſeaſes, which, have been too "boldly pronounced incurable: and, laſt- "ly, to extend our inquiries after the "powers of particular medicines in the "cure of particular diſeaſes."

"It was by the method of tranſmitting "Caſes and Cures, that Phyſic firſt began "to be formed into a ſcience; by the "ſame it muſt be improved and brought, "if poſſible, to perfection."

TEMPLEMAN.

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CASES

IN THE

ACUTE RHEUMATISM

AND THE

GOUT, &c.

THERE is no occaſion to make any apology, for laying a few Caſes of my practice before the Public.—The conſequence, I truſt, will be this —either, that I myſelf ſhall receive ſome improvement from the reaſons and objections of others, (if any be diſpoſed to object) or—that ſuch of them, who can read without prejudice, will be induced to follow a like method of practice, when

 ſimilar

ſimilar (a) caſes ſhall occur, which hath been attended with ſuch evident advantage in my

(a) Nothing facilitates the progreſs of medical knowledge more, than an unprejudiced attention to ſuch mode of practice as is recommended from experience in particular and deciſive Caſes. But the advantage to the profeſſion will not be compleat without adding to this attention, a free and liberal communication of any remarks which may be made by the practitioner who hath been induced to follow the method recommended.

Dr. Duncan in a late publication, entituled, *Medical Caſes and Obſervations*, ſays, " This remedy, " [Tictura Guiacina Volatilis] *ſince* I read Dr. Daw- " ſon's Caſes, I have *often* employed, and *ſometimes*, I " think it hath been of *very conſiderable* advantage."— Doth the Doctor mean to inſinuate here, that he *only ſometimes* found it of very conſiderable advantage?— If ſo, how ſhall we account for his being induced *often* to employ it?—Here I will flatter myſelf, that the Doctor would not have often employed it, had he not *often* found it of advantage.—And I muſt alſo add my ſuſpicions that, where the Doctor apprehended its failure, it was employed in Caſes not *ſimilar*. For " in " recent Rheumatic Caſes, ſays he, I have ſometimes " been ſuſpicious that it had rather a bad effect as " [than] otherwiſe,"—Caſes, in which I do not recollect ever to have recommended it. However this be, it was in the Doctor's power to have effectually prevented any ſuſpicion of this nature, by communicating and ſpecifying the *Inſtances* of its failure. As the ſtricture

my hands, for a conſiderable length of time.

It is a ſtale artifice of illiberal and ungenerous minds, to oppoſe, with great vehemence, any remarkable deviation from the common road of practice. But the candid and ingenuous will ever examine for themſelves, be diſpoſed to ſuſpend their judgments, readily ſubmitting every new experiment, not obviouſly hazardous, to the deciſive teſt of fact and experience.

Permit me here to aſſert, by way of preface, in common with other medical writers, that the health and happineſs of mankind are much concerned in a right and judicious practice: to urge alſo the ſame plea with them, that this is the principal motive for laying before the Public a few facts and obſervations, deſiring juſt the ſame allowance of credit, on this head,

ture ſtands, drawn up in ſuch a general and vague manner, it is not poſſible to avail oneſelf of it. It leads only to doubt and uncertainty, and, (notwithſtanding the Doctor's repeated acknowledgment of its "long uſe with good effect") is in reality prejudicing the reputation of the medicine.

which is uſually given to others, and no more.

Let me farther appriſe the reader, what he is to expect—No formal or elaborate treatiſe, protracted to an unneceſſary length, decked out with a variety of uncertain theories(b), or blind conjectures, that endemic

(b) Dr. HARDY, in a late Treatiſe on the *Poitou and Devonſhire Cholic, with Remarks on the Cauſes of the Gout*, preſumes, "that the regular prevalence of the latter "cannot be ſo rationally attributed to any thing as, the "drinking wines corrected, rather adulterated, by the "admixture of ſome noxious mineral ſubſtances, that a "courſe of experiments on convicts, by furniſhing them "with ſuch wines, &c. would demonſtrate, he is fully "perſuaded, that the *primary* cauſes of the Gout are "infinitely leſs complex than they have hitherto been "ſuppoſed, and that, had a proper attention been paid "to this circumſtance by our predeceſſors, this formi-"dable and painful diſeaſe would have been many ages "ſince almoſt annihilated."

His opponent, Dr. RIOLLAY, aſſerts on the other hand, and with ſome confidence, "that all attempts to "reduce the origin of the Gout to one *ſingle*, *ſimple*, "*extraneous* cauſe, have proved unſucceſsful. That "the variety and contrariety of appearances in this "diſorder, cannot be reconciled to one ſimple primary "cauſe. But muſt be aſcribed to an Atonia, a debi-"litated ſtate of the nervous ſyſtem. Not to *weak*,

"ſays

endemic diſeaſe in medical writings. I mean only to offer a few plain Caſes of the lateſt date, with, as was hinted before, ſome few obſervations, in that frequent and excruciating diſeaſe, commonly called an *acute* Rheumatiſm, and the Gout.

Having thus beſpoken the attention of the reader, I proceed immediately to the Caſes themſelves; the Remarks and Obſervations upon which ſhall either follow each Caſe, or be added at the concluſion of the whole, as may beſt convey my intention and reaſoning.

" ſays the Doctor, but *weakened* nerves, where the " proper adjuſtment is deſtroyed; and when it cannot " be accounted for by any other cauſe, *uſually produc-* " *tive* of the diſorder, it is to be aſcribed to ſome " original dibility in the nervous ſyſtem, ſome mal- " conformation or inequality of adjuſtment of the " maſter power to the other parts of the body."—That is, in ſhort, to this thing or that thing—to ſome thing or to ſome thing elſe.—But whatever uncertainty at preſent attends the reſpective theories of both theſe writers, it is to be hoped, the Public will at length profit by their labours, being promiſed by the one, on a future occaſion, a more *ſafe* and *ſucceſsful*; and by the other, the *wiſeſt* and moſt *rational* method of cure.

CASE I.

MARY Wright, of Stoke-Newington, of a ſanguineous, and healthy complexion, aged 19, was, on the 14th of Auguſt 1772, ſuddenly ſeized with a pungent, throbbing pain in her left ancle, which quickly afterwards became red, and ſwelled. She herſelf, and her neighbours attributed this at firſt to a ſtrain; for the removal of which, liniments, *&c.* were applied, but without effect. Her pain ſenſibly encreaſed by the warmth of the bed; and, on the third day from the attack, ſhe became manifeſtly feveriſh; obſerving, at the ſame time, that her fever, her ſweats, as well as the acuteneſs of the pain, were greatly augmented during the night. The anguiſh, before this time confined to her ancle only, was now become univerſal. The joints of her legs and arms were remarkably ſwelled and inflamed; and her fever, thirſt, and reſtleſſneſs,

leſſneſs, ſeemed daily to encreaſe. Upon this ſhe called for aſſiſtance; and, as well as I could gueſs, both from its taſte and its effects, (always occaſioning a ſenſe of coldneſs at her ſtomach) a ſingle ſaline mixture, with the addition of nitre, was all that had been directed for her.

I was ſent for on the 27th, a fortnight from the commencement of the complaint, and found her in the ſtate above deſcribed. Her tongue was white, but moiſt, her pulſe quick, but rather weak. She was withall very coſtive. There was no delirium; nor had there been the leaſt tendency to it.

I ordered her to be bled immediately, and half an ounce of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. in two ounces and a half of common water, to be taken at night, and repeated early in the morning. Both the draughts were taken without any difficulty; and in the evening of the 28th, I found her ſitting up; her pains and fever having intirely ceaſed. The blood was extremely ſizy and viſcid.

The medicine gave her a few motions,

and produced a critical diſcharge, both by perſpiration and urine.

Nothing ſeemed farther neceſſary, nor was any thing farther done, than barely directing a little Elix. Paregor. to allay the ruffle, and to prevent the looſeneſs going too far. I neither followed it with the bark, nor directed the cold bath: one or other of which I have uſually directed, and ſometimes both, to prevent a return of the diſorder.

Happily for the patient, ſhe ſtood in need of neither, but hath continued perfectly well ever ſince.

REMARKS.

LET me here requeſt the reader to reflect, whether, in the whole courſe of practice, there can poſſibly be a more immediate connection betwixt the operation of

of the medicine, as a cauſe, and the removal of the diſorder, as its effect, than in the Caſe here exhibited. The relief was ſpeedy, the recovery perfect. No Caſe in practice can be leſs ambiguous. This once admitted, it is moſt apparent, that a diſorder, which is often very tedious, hath been vaſtly ſhortened; a great deal of exquiſite pain and ſuffering cut off, much blood-letting prevented, a numerous farrago of clyſters, bliſters, nitrous, ſaline, and attenuating medicines ſuperſeded; and, what is no immaterial conſideration to that induſtrious claſs of mankind, moſt ſubject to this complaint, a vaſt expence leſſened, and a long detention from buſineſs prevented. And if a more certain, or an abbreviated criſis of this diſorder may be hoped for, the aggregate advantage to the community, from ſuch a treatment becoming general, muſt be too high for eſtimation.

For let it be obſerved, that this complaint is peculiarly prevalent in Great Britain, owing, perhaps, to the temperature of our climate, our inſular ſituation, the damps

damps and moiſture to which we are ſubject, the ſudden tranſitions from heat to cold, and *vice verſâ*, more eſpecially in autumn, and the ſucceeding months, till very late in the ſpring. It alſo attacks perſons of the moſt active and happy conſtitutions; the huſbandman, the gardener, the ſoldier, *&c.* the inferior indeed, but not the leaſt uſeful claſs of mankind.

Now, what forbids us to hope for the like happy termination of this tedious diſorder, which took place, both ſo ſpeedily and ſo effectually, in the caſe above-mentioned; and which, though ſimple and uncomplicated, was as alarming, and the pain as excruciating, as any I had ever ſeen? There can ſurely be no abſurdity in ſuppoſing ſimilar cauſes will produce ſimilar effects. Doth not humanity then call upon us, ſucceſs encourage, and reaſon approve and urge, farther trials in every like inſtance.

Great care, however, muſt be taken, that the circumſtances be really ſimilar, when we do make uſe of the ſame treatment,

ment. It would be the height of preſumption and temerity, becauſe bleeding, purging, cooling, ſudorific, incraſſating, or attenuating medicines are, in ſome particular fevers, and in certain periods of a fever, very uſeful—to apply theſe raſhly, without ſuch an attentive diſcrimination of circumſtances, as may beſt direct us to the *When* and *How*, they are reſpectively neceſſary.

It is almoſt needleſs to obſerve, that fevers have their reſpective differences, their reſpective riſe and progreſs, declination and criſis. In all of them, different ſtages require a different kind of treatment; and what might be proper practice in the commencement, may be much otherwiſe in the advance of the diſorder, and ſo *vice verſâ*.

This general obſervation is but ſuperficially touched, in order to introduce a retroſpect upon the given Caſe with more advantage.

The patient had been grievouſly afflicted with this diſorder for a fortnight. After an attentive inſpection of the Caſe, ſhe was

bled

bled in the evening, the Guaiacum medicine given ſoon afterwards, repeated the next morning; and in the evening of the ſame day, ſhe was totally freed from the fever, and every attendant complaint. In ſhort, her health was reſtored without any farther meaſures being uſed, or any return of her diſorder. Will this warrant us to do the ſame, at all times, and in every ſtage of the diſeaſe, without any conſideration of circumſtances? No, ſurely! This would be a moſt haſty and imperfect concluſion indeed, and might lead to very dangerous errors in practice. A fortnight had elapſed before the above meaſures were taken for her relief. Nature had, all this time, been at work in her own myſterious laboratory. A fever was viſibly her inſtrument. She had not been diſturbed in her operations either by bleeding, by clyſters, or purgatives. A ſaline or nitrous mixture, ſuch it appeared to me, was all that had been given. Great coſtiveneſs prevailed, and the fever, tho' more inert, yet ſtill retained a conſiderable degree of activity. Nature alſo, it

is

is poſſible, had been diſcharging ſome of the offending matter, ſo to ſpeak, through the inflamed and tumefied joints, by an inſenſible, whilſt the intervening ſweats were doing the ſame, by a more ſenſible perſpiration. It ſeemed by a due concoction, if I may uſe an ancient phraſe, fully prepared to paſs through the innumerable and inviſible outlets, which cover the ſurface of the body, as well as down the great excretory canal, through the urinary paſſages, and the orifice of the vein. The medicine being given in this ſeaſonable moment, when nature was ſtruggling in her laſt finiſhing operation, the cure became perfect and compleat.

The time *When* this was done, is ſo material a circumſtance, that it can by no means be overlooked, if we would purſue a ſimilar treatment. Had the ſame meaſures been directed on the ſecond, third, or fourth day from the commencement of the diſorder, it is probable, that they would have been attended with no ſuch fortunate event, but perhaps quite the contrary. The ſtate of the Caſe then, would

have

have been no longer the ſame; and therefore the iſſue might have been very different, though the preſcribed methods were the ſame. We might have been doing harm inſtead of good, and obſtructing nature too much, in her wiſe and kind endeavours to ſerve us. Both the fever and the coſtiveneſs might have been wanted here, for the preſent, to forward and execute her intentions, and to put a more ſpeedy and effectual termination to the diſorder.

I had no reaſon, perhaps, to lament, that the uſual methods had not been purſued in the more early ſtage of the diſeaſe. This was an advantage, at leaſt it appeared ſo to me, on a careful review of the caſe. From hence I was induced to conclude, that even in this ardent and inflammatory fever, we may be too haſty and precipitate, in purſuing the common practice of early bleeding, and other evacuations; and may carry them much too far. Would it not be more adviſeable to wait a little, to do nothing without an urgent neceſſity, except in the dietetic way, or only ſomething

thing to amuſe the patient, and guard againſt any great irregularities? If his ſufferings ſhould be rather greater for a few days (tho' I am not certain that would be the caſe) yet he is likely to be rewarded, by a more ſpeedy releaſe from them, and a more perfect recovery of his health.

Add to this conſideration, that we have greater compaſs allowed us in the Rheumatic fever, than in many others, where the ſame cautious proceeding is adviſeable: becauſe this is not, in general, a diſorder either of ſuch mortal danger, ſuch rapid progreſs, or ſuch ſpeedy iſſue, in reſpect to life or death, as to allow no time to look about us. It affords us commonly ſufficient leiſure to make cool obſervations on its progreſs, its ακμη or ſtate, its declination and variations, and alſo on the tumefied (c) parts, *viz.* whether red and florid, moiſt or dry, hard or ſoft,

(c) Intereſt, ſine tumore is ſit, an tumor cum *calore*, an tumor etiam jam *obcaluerit*. Nam, ſi tumor nullus, eſt, *calidis fomentis* opus eſt, &c. Si vero *tumor calorque* eſt, utiliora ſunt *refrigerantia*. *Celſus*.

erratic

erratic or ſtationary, or in a ſubſiding ſtate.

It would be unpardonable, when we have ſeveral indicative circumſtances preſented to us, in the acute Rheumatiſm, not to pay the ſtricteſt attention to them. For by repeated obſervations, conducted with proper accuracy and minuteneſs, in a variety of caſes compared with each other, we may poſſibly hit upon that critical moment, that ſeaſonable point of time, when nature invites, and we are ready to join forces in the intire expulſion of the malady from all quarters of the body, and to perform a radical and permanent cure; without any of thoſe terrible remnants of an imperfect criſis, occaſioned either by a premature attempt to aſſiſt nature, or by one too long delayed.

This great *deſideratum* is worthy of an attentive inveſtigation; and we ſhould think ourſelves very happy, to arrive at more certainty about it. In the mean time, it is beſt not to be impertinently officious, intruding with our ignorance upon the much wiſer deſigns of nature to

ſerve

ſerve us, but to be in conſtant waiting to obey her orders expeditiouſly, whenever ſhe ſhall point at a criſis, and throw out fair and manifeſt ſignals for aſſiſtance. For nature will, and muſt have things in her own way; and by our impatience to have matters diſpatched out of hand, and by endeavours rudely to force her, we may fruſtrate both her intentions, and our own wiſhes, and be left in the midſt of that diſtreſs and affliction, to which no human ſkill can preſcribe either certain remedies or certain bounds.

Such, as well as I can recollect, were ſome of the ideas which occurred to me, on reflecting upon the above Caſe.

The following Caſe I ſhall give in the words of the letter ſent me, by the gentleman who attended the patient. Mr. Johnſon, Surgeon and Apothecary in Walthamſtow, at that time an intire ſtranger to me, was ſo obliging af-

 terwards,

terwards, as, at my requeſt, to draw it up; and now gives me his permiſſion to publiſh it, though written with no ſuch intention.

CASE II.

GEORGE Turner, a whiteſmith, in Marſh-ſtreet, Walthamſtow, in the 35th year of his age, of a middle ſtature, ſtrong tenſe fibre, and good conſtitution, deſired me to attend him, on the third of September laſt, having been very ill for ſeveral days of a Rheumatic diſorder of the inflammatory kind.

The caſe at firſt appeared to me rather alarming, and attended with ſome danger of his life as well as his limbs. He had a continual pain in his arms, legs, and thighs, ſeveral of his joints ſwelled and inflamed; and had, at times, very acute pains on the muſcles of the thorax, and mem-

membranes of the ſides; his pulſe very quick and hard, tongue extremely dry and foul, intenſe heat and dryneſs in the ſkin, accompanied with ſickneſs, nauſea, and a violent diarrhæa.

In order to ſtop the looſeneſs (which ſeemed to be the principal concern before I was called in) he imprudently drank ſome quantity of hot Port wine with ſpices, and made uſe of ſeveral other things, no leſs improper, with reſpect to the fever and inflammation of his blood.

I immediately bled him, to the amount of twelve ounces, and found his blood extremely ſizy, with no ſmall degree of acrimony. Two or three hours after, I gave him a gentle emetic; and that, with a few doſes of rhubarb, *&c.* ſoon ſettled his bowels: after which I put him upon medicines of the cooling and attenuating kind, which conſiderably leſſened the fever, and abated the pain; and he continued better for two days and nights.

The fever then advancing, and the pain increaſing, I took away more blood, and

repeated it the next morning, in proportion to the ſtrength and fulneſs of his pulſe, *&c.* with a view chiefly of ſubduing the fever, as I found the ſtate of the blood the ſame as at firſt, and thereby making way for more efficacious medicines, bliſters, *&c.*

The pain continuing obſtinate, and very little abated by all that had been done, I next morning adviſed calling in a phyſician; and Dr. Dawſon was ſent for, who coming ſoon after, and finding the fever on the decline, ordered a draught for him, to be repeated every morning and evening, with half an ounce of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. in three ounces of barley water; and, if I found it neceſſary, to add Tinct. Thebaic. (d) gutt. xij. which I did three times,

(d) Sir JOHN PRINGLE, in his *Obſervations on the diſeaſes of the army*, ſays, "SYDENHAM condemns O-"piates as fixing the diſeaſe, and, ſo far as I have "obſerved, *juſtly*;"—and yet the Doctor informs us, "that ſince the two firſt editions of his *Obſervations*, "he hath uſed in the Rheumatiſm (when there was "no fever) Dr. DOVER's Powder; giving for ſome "nights about 20 or 25 grains of it at bed-time, with *plenty*

times, on account of a great tendency to a diarrhæa, that it might not run off by ſtool.

 Before

" *plenty* of ſome warm diluting liquor, and laying the " patient in *blankets*."—Now, waving every other conſideration, Opium being a principal ingredient in Dr. DOVER's Powder, a queſtion naturally ariſes here —Doth Opium fix the diſeaſe in the acute, and hath it not that tendency in the chronic Rheumatiſm?—From the Doctor's continued uſe of this powder, we are left to ſuppoſe that it hath not this effect in the latter caſe. —Should it be aſked again—Do the ſeveral ingredients with which Opium is combined in this compoſition, at all diminiſh or prevent its uſual effects? Let Dr. BROCKLESBY anſwer to this particular:—" This" [Powder] which the Doctor juſtly calls a prepoſterous ferrago, " I have ſometimes ventured to extend to two " drams in 24 hours; as I am fully ſatisfied the ſtimu- " lus of Ipecacoanha, accompanying ſix grains, or even " more Opium in 24 hours, where enormous pain is " felt, ſo far prevents its narcotic effects, that very few " people, who took no more than this quantity, grew " delirious, or were affected with any conſiderable " ſymptoms of this claſs, in conſequence of it; and if " any few, by taking ſometimes more in quantity, " were ſo, the complaint proved only of a few hours " continuance; for it was carried off by plentiful ablu- " tions of gruel, or of any thin drinks taken warm and " frequently."—Here it is to be regretted, as the deli-

rious

Before the Doctor left the room, I took care to inform myſelf whether he meant (as

rious ſymptoms occaſioned by ſo large a quantity of Opium were thus eaſily carried off, that this matter was not put to a fairer iſſue, by giving to ſome (if this could have been done) Opium only, and Dr. DOVER's powder, containing a like quantity of Opium, to an equal number of other patients under the ſame circumſtances, and in the ſame ſpace of time. This would have been the moſt likely way to have known, whether Ipecacoanha doth indeed counteract the narcotic effects of Opium. As the matter is here ſtated by the Doctor, ſome perſons may be diſpoſed to think that *enormous pain* might prove as great a ſtimulus, as the Ipecacoanha.

☞ Thus this matter ſtood in the *ſecond edition* of my Caſes. Since that time Sir JOHN PRINGLE hath thought proper to publiſh another impreſſion of his *Obſervations*, in which he omits intirely any mention of DOVER's powder, and its accompaniments; "*plenty* "of ſome warm diluting liquor, and laying the patient "in *blankets*." For, no one ſurely needs be told, the great difficulty and the great diſcernment requiſite to pronounce with certainty of the effect of any medicine, where ſuch a variety take place, attended too with ſuch *circumſtances* as are of themſelves oftentimes ſufficient to bring about a cure. It is ſomething ſurpriſing therefore, that Dr. PRINGLE ſhould have retained this powder for ſuch a length of time, and in ſuch various editions of his book, and not have aimed at a much greater degree of ſimplicity in his preſcription, the moſt proba-

ble

(as he had directed) to have the whole doſe given at once, having never ſeen ſo large a

 quantity

ble method of arriving at a knowledge of the real effects of any medicine. "Scarce any thing (ſays a "judicious writer) hath more retarded the improve- "ment of phyſic, than mixing things together of a "different nature; for oftentimes many things are "confounded together, which, ſeperately adminiſtered, "might aſſiſt the patient, and give credit to the "phyſician; whereas mixed, they become uſeleſs, one "deſtroying the effect of the other.——This affair "ought to be looked into and regulated, by thoſe who "have the power, that we may not fall under the laſh "of ſome future [Satyriſt] who, with a little varia- tion, might addreſs himſelf thus to ſome phyſicians:

"Ye jumble in one maſs ſuch coſtly juices,
"So various in their natures, in their uſes,
"That the poor patient, who relies upon you,
"At once is cheated of his health and money."

This reminds me of the following ſtory. A phyſician, of ready wit, being once aſked, why he crowded ſuch a variety of ingredients into his preſcription? anſwered, To let the *diſorder chooſe* what it *liked beſt* for itſelf.

Dr. Dover's *ancient Phyſician's Legacy to his Country*, not being in every one's hands, I ſhall in this place put down the compoſition of his powder, of the propriety of which the reader will judge for himſelf.

"Take opium one ounce, ſalt petre and tartar "vitriolated, each four ounces, ipecacoanha one ounce,

"liquoriſh

quantity given before; and I now declare it as a fact, that I never, in the whole courſe of my practice, which is upwards of twenty years, ſaw any one (e) medicine anſwer

" liquoriſh one ounce. Put the ſalt petre and tar-
" tar into a red hot mortar, ſtirring them with a ſpoon
" till they have done flaming. Then powder them
" very fine; after that ſlice in your opium; grind
" theſe to a powder, and then mix the other powders
" with theſe. Doſe from forty to ſixty or ſeventy
" grains, in a glaſs of white-wine poſſet, going to
" bed.—Covering up warm, and drinking a quart or
" three pints of the poſſet drink while ſweating."

(e) Sir JOHN PRINGLE ſuppoſeth a non-efficiency in the Tinct. Guaiac. Volat. ſaying, " The Tincture of " Guaiacum of the Diſpenſatory contains ſo little of " the Gum, that we muſt aſcribe moſt of its virtues " to the Volatile Salt."—Be it ſo, that the principal virtue of the medicine doth conſiſt in the Volatile Salt, yet both the one and the other muſt, on particular occaſions, be ineffectual, given in the uſual quantity. And when the Doctor made this obſervation, it is highly probable, that he proceeded in the cuſtomary way of giving the Tincture by drops, or a dram at a time, or little more. This I collect from the Doctor's manner of giving the Volatile Salts, whether in the acute or chronic Rheumatiſm; informing us in one place, " that to " twenty grains of the Gum, diſſolved with the yolk of " an egg, he ſometimes adds a few grains of ſalt of " hartſhorn."

anſwer one quarter ſo well, under the like circumſtances.

The

" hartſhorn." In another, " that he gives twice or " thrice in the day fifty or ſixty drops of the ſpirit of " hartſhorn in a draught of water." In a third, " This " was my practice in the hoſpital ; but ſince that time, " having ſeen great good effects from the Gum Guaia- " cum uſed only as a laxative, I give it in ſolution " with five grains of Salt of Hartſhorn."

Now I had allowed, after making every deduction, that half an ounce of the Tincture contains at leaſt twenty-five grains of the Gum. Later experiments convince me it contains much more. Every doſe then, as I direct the Tincture, conveys a greater proportion of it than what the Doctor himſelf generally gives ; for twenty grains is his ordinary proportion ; and were the whole of the Gum diſſolved by the ſpirit, every half ounce, if I calculate right, would contain forty grains of the Gum.

☞ The Obſervation above, which Sir JOHN PRINGLE had made, reſpecting the " Tincture of Guaiacum of " the Diſpenſatory," was ſo far from being juſt, that ſince the appearance of this little tract, he hath been induced wholly to omit the haſty reflection which he had paſſed upon the Tincture, and all that he had advanced in the note above, concerning the volatile part ; fully convinced, it ſhould ſeem, of the inefficacy of giving either the Gum or the Volatiles in ſuch ſmall and trifling doſes, (as in his former practice) telling us, with reſpect to the

Gum,

The firſt doſe greatly relieved him, without being attended with the leaſt ill effect on any account; and after the ſecond, in the morning, I found him in an univerſal, fine, gentle ſweat; his pulſe greatly ſoftened, and quite calm; a fine concocted ſediment in his urine, and the pains and ſwellings in a manner gone. —It is to be obſerved, that though two large bliſters (f) were applied to the affected arms,

Gum, inſtead of twenty, as in his ſtated Formulary, he now uſually gives thirty grains of the Gum; and the Volatiles, it may be ſuppoſed, in a like greater proportion. For no mention is now made of giving the Gum with a "few grains of Salt of Hartſhorn," *to keep up a perſpiration*; "five grains of Salt of Hartſhorn," &c. &c.—The Doctor, however, ſtill recommends the Guaiacum and the Volatiles, in general terms. But how doth this differ eſſentially from the "Tincture of "Guaiacum of the Diſpenſatory?"

(f) Dr. LANGRISH agrees with Dr. FREIND, in recommending *veſiccatories*, in *ardent acute fevers*, provided they are applied towards "the *ſtationary period* of "the fever, when the *ſolids* begin to flag, and ſtand in "need of a *ſtimulus*; or when the natural operations "are inſufficient to diſcharge the morbific matter "through the excretive glandules, without ſuch aſſiſt-"ances. But, on the contrary, whilſt the vital powers "are

arms, at the ſame time the draught was given, the relief he found ſo ſoon after, cannot well be attributed to any thing but the latter. The draughts were continued three days, till the pains had perfectly left him, without the Tinct. Thebaic. (g)—But

" are too ſtrong, whilſt the veſſels and fibres are too " rigid and dry, whilſt the blood and lymph are viſcous " and inſpiſſated merely by the intenſeneſs of the heat, " and whilſt all the efforts of nature are ſufficiently " ſtrong, the application of bliſtering plaiſters muſt " needs be improper."

The reader will obſerve, that this is the only Caſe wherein bliſters were applied, when the breath was not affected; and that the cure does not ſeem, in this inſtance, to have been accelerated by them.

" Bliſtering, ſays Dr. CULLEN, may be very effec- " tual in removing the pain from a particular part; " but will be of little uſe, except where the pains are " much confined to one part."

(g) ☞ Since the appearance of the Query (at p. 20, note d) relative to the effects of Opium, in each kind of Rheumatiſm, in the laſt edition of theſe Caſes, Sir JOHN PRINGLE, inſtead of confirming SYDENHAM's obſervation, *viz.* that Opiates fix the diſeaſe in a Rheumatic fever, as being a *juſt one*, which he had formerly done, now adds, *how juſtly may be a queſtion*—But take the remainder of the paragraph as Sir JOHN *now* puts it, for I had thought this was an obſervation made in the army; " during

But from making too free, on all accounts, (as I frankly told him at that time, and forwarned

" during my practice in the army, relying upon his " authority, I likewiſe abſtained from them in the " Rheumatiſm, both acute and chronical. But ſince " that time, being *moved by the teſtimony of others*, I " have altered my method in that reſpect; and in ſharp " nocturnal pains, preventing all reſt, I have ſometimes " ſucceſsfully given from 20 to 25 drops of *Tinctura* " *Thebaica*, joined to 30 drops of the *Vinum Antimoniale*; " but, *in other caſes*, I have *imagined*, with SYDENHAM, " that it was better to omit all ſuch medicines." In *other Caſes!*—What Caſes does Sir JOHN mean? Surely not, when reſt is obtained without them, and when the pains are not ſharp.—In ſuch Caſes, doubtleſs, Opiates are not neceſſary. When, therefore, Sir JOHN ſays, it is better to omit all ſuch medicines, the queſtion ſtill occurs—Is it for the reaſon aſſigned by SYDENHAM, " that Opiates " have a tendency *to fix the diſeaſe*," which obſervation Sir JOHN had formerly confirmed? or is it becauſe they would be ſuperfluous when reſt is not prevented by the pains, or when the pains are not ſharp? or for what other reaſon? — " *Moved*," ſaith Sir JOHN, " *by the teſtimony* " *of others*"—May I aſk here, By what teſtimony? Was it that of Sir RICHARD BLACKMORE?—Hear then what Sir RICHARD ſaith on this head. " It is " very certain, that the great pains, and obſtinate " wakefulneſs and inquietudes, require the uſe of " pacific medicines. Dr. SYDENHAM forbids the uſe of " Opiates, till about the fifth day; but, in my opinion, " he

forewarned him) and perhaps, from ſome freſh cold, the pains returned ſome days after; and, for want of being properly attended

" he gives no convincing reaſon for that injunction;
" and the apprehenſions he entertains of their exaſpera-
" ting and augmenting the ſymptoms, if given ſooner,
" do not proceed from reaſon or experience, at leaſt
" are not congruous to mine, who have uſed them
" from the ſecond day, not only without detriment,
" but with advantage."

" In all acute and *vehement pain* (ſays Dr. CHEYNE)
" *Opium* is the ſovereign relief, particularly in the
" *Cholic*, *Stone*, *Gout*, *Rheumatiſm*, &c. It operates
" by *relaxing* and unbending the fibres, *overſtretched*
" and criſped up by *pain*."

" Hear farther Dr. TISSOT's obſervation: " The
" pains, [in the Rheumatic fever] are generally moſt
" ſevere in the night; whence it hath been uſual to
" give compoſing ſoporific medicines. This, however,
" has been very erroneous, as Opiates really augment
" the cauſe of the diſeaſe, deſtroy the efficacy of the
" proper medicines, and even, far from aſſwaging the
" pains, frequently increaſe them. Indeed, they agree
" ſo little in this diſeaſe, that even the patient's natural
" ſleep at the invaſion of the complaint, is rather to his
" detriment. They feel, the very moment they are
" dropping aſleep, ſuch violent jerks, as awaken them
" with great pain; of if they do ſleep a few minutes,
" the pains are ſtronger when they awake."

Opiates, ſays Profeſſor CULLEN, except where they are

tended to, continued troubleſome for ſome time.

Walthamſtow,
March 31ſt, 1773.

R^D. JOHNSON.

are directed to procure ſweat, always prove hurtful in every ſtage of the Rheumatiſm.

Now, on the whole, let us for a moment imagine to ourſelves, that a Tyro in phyſic ſhould ſet himſelf down ſeriouſly to read and conſider theſe differing and oppoſite ſentiments, not of different writers only, but of the ſame writers, at different periods of life, on one and the ſame ſubject—How great muſt be his diſtraction? and how little inſtruction or ſatisfaction would it be poſſible for him to reap from their labours?—It is highly unfortunate, therefore, that amongſt ſuch a variety of profeſſed *Obſervers*, ſo much apparent doubt and uncertainty ſhould ſtill prevail, and on a ſubject too not the moſt intricate and perplexed.

And farther, what doth all this contrariety of opinion evince, but that phyſicians have yet to learn either the *Kinds* of paregorics moſt requiſite for palliating the ſymptoms in this diſorder, or the *Times* moſt proper for adminiſtering them?—For the natural tendency of Opium is to allay pain; and Guaiacum alſo is acknowledged to have "great good effects in the Rheumatiſm:" if then, either the one or the other fail of their proper effects, is it not natural to conclude, that this ariſeth from not knowing *How* and *When* they are reſpectively to be given?

REMARKS.

REMARKS.

FIdelity in the narration of Caſes, joined to an accurate attention, even to very minute circumſtances, is indiſpenſably requiſite, before we can make a judicious compariſon, and be enabled from thence to determine, that they are Caſes in point; and ſo far ſimilar in their capital circumſtances, as to juſtify the ſame concluſions, and the ſame treatment.

Let it be farther obſerved, that there may be ſome little and circumſtantial differences, yet not of ſo eſſential a nature, as to affect the ſameneſs, or ſimilarity of the Caſes.

Here we have a fever of ſeveral days ſtanding, before any aſſiſtance was called for.—Inſtead of coſtiveneſs, the uſual concomitant of this complaint, a looſeneſs

was

was prevalent from the beginning, and through a conſiderable ſtage of the diſeaſe. The blood was (as is uſual in Pleuriſies and Rheumatiſms) buffy and ſizy (h). In this gentleman's idea, it was moreover in an acrimonious ſtate. The fever, we find,

(h) "In the inflammation of the breaſt, ſays Dr. "TISSOT, and in all other inflammatory diſeaſes, the "blood is in a very thick viſcid ſtate, and almoſt im- "mediately on its being drawn, a white tough ſkin, "ſomewhat like leather, is formed on its top, which "moſt people have ſeen, and which is called the *pleu-* "*ritic* cruſt. It is thought a promiſing appearance, "when at each bleeding it ſeems leſs hard, and leſs "thick, than it was at the preceding ones: and this "is very generally true, if the ſick feels himſelf, at the "ſame time, ſenſibly better: but whoever ſhall attend "*ſolely* to the appearance of the blood, will find him- "ſelf often deceived. It will happen, even in the moſt "violent inflammation of the breaſt, that this *cruſt* is "not formed, which is ſuppoſed to be a very unpromi- "ſing ſign. There are alſo, in this reſpect, many odd "appearances, which ariſe from the ſmalleſt circum- "ſtances; ſo that we muſt not regulate the repetitions "of our bleeding, *ſolely* by this *cruſt*: and, in general, "we muſt not be over credulous in ſuppoſing, that "the appearances in the blood, received into the baſon, "can enable us to determine, with certainty, of its real "ſtate in the body."

after

after abating a little, returned with equal violence. The pain in the limbs remained obſtinate, without much abatement. But after the third bleeding, the fever being on the decline, I ſaw it neceſſary immediately, before it had quite deſerted us, neglecting the leſs material circumſtances, to direct my aim to the capital point, of aſſiſting nature in the abſolute expulſion of the diſtemper.

I conſidered things as in a ſtate of full ripeneſs for acting in this manner; and accordingly threw in the medicine, without farther evacuations by the lancet; which happily anſwered my intentions, by an univerſal gentle ſweat, ſhewing the criſis, both by a calm, ſoftened pulſe, a fine ſediment in the urine, and an almoſt intire ceſſation of the pain;—tokens theſe generally admitted as manifeſting a perfect criſis.

The ſame medicine was repeated for three days ſucceſſively; though it ought to be obſerved, that the criſis manifeſted itſelf, as in the former Caſe, evidently after the exhibition of the ſecond doſe.

Now, as the patient had been greatly exhauſted by the continuance of the diſorder, the repeated bleedings (i), and other diſcharges,

(i) Sir JOHN PRINGLE, as an apology for his practice, "with regard to repeated bleedings, which were his "chief remedy," ſaith, "It is to be remembered, "that my patients were men in the prime of life, and "of that claſs, that is little ſubject to *arthritic* pains, "which may ſo readily be confounded with the Rheu-"matic."—But, *it is to be remembered alſo*, that Sir John tells us, "the Rheumatiſms which occurred were gene-"rally of a milder kind; as its cauſes could not ope-"rate ſo powerfully on men, whoſe *blood* in general was "*little* diſpoſed to *inflammation*, either by high living, or "by a full habit."—Now, if this was generally the caſe, where, I would aſk, was the neceſſity of ſuch repeated bleedings, or of making this his chief remedy?—Again, Sir JOHN would have it remembered "that his "men were in the prime of life, and of that claſs that "is little ſubject to *arthritic* pains, which may ſo readily "be confounded with the Rheumatic."—But what of that?—are we not to remember alſo, what he tells us in another place, "that in young people, when the Gout "is diſguiſed under a Rheumatic form, we cannot much "err, if we treat the Caſe as if it were purely Rheuma-"tic."—Where is the conſiſtency of this?—and what neceſſity of being thus reminded, when we are informed in the ſame paragraph, "that in his private "practice, among people whoſe manner of living diſ-

"poſed

diſcharges, I directed, (what is omitted in the Caſe) as well to remedy theſe inconveniencies, as to prevent a relapſe, a ſtrong decoction of the Bark, with the addition of the Cordial Confection, and left him two or three days afterwards quite well; recommending to him farther, to uſe the cold bath. As to the relapſe, which did not continue any great length of time, that is ſufficiently accounted for, in the Caſe itſelf.

Let us now ſee, in what eſſential points theſe two Caſes, and their treatment, do agree, by ſelecting and ſeparating them from leſſer incidental circumſtances; which

" poſed them more to attacks of the Gout, than to a " true Rheumatiſm; in every ambiguous caſe, if there " was fever, I have bled freely, not only once, but a " ſecond and third time, if the blood was ſizy, and the " patient not too weak [an important circumſtance] " but relieved by the evacuation."—Now the blood is generally ſizy, whether the Caſe be Gouty or Rheumatic. And whatever propriety there may be in bleeding the patient, ſo long as he was relieved by the evacuation, certainly the *ſizy* appearance of the blood is too fallacious a mark to juſtify ſuch a practice.— See note h. p. 32. and alſo note t. p. 74, 75, 76.

we may conſider, as only a varied drapery, in the portraiture of one and the ſame perſon.—They agree in theſe reſpects; the fever was all along ſtrong and vigorous in both; and continued (notwithſtanding repeated bleedings in the latter Caſe) a length of time ſufficient to attenuate the offending matter, be that what it will. They agree alſo in this reſpect, that, when I was called in, the fever was not without activity; and though, in the latter Caſe, rather more languid than in the former, yet had it by no means quitted either of the patients. They agree farther in this, that the very day after the exhibition of the medicine, a perfect criſis was formed. Add to this, that the tumified parts, and the appearances of the blood, were the ſame in both. Theſe I call the capital circumſtances.

With regard to the dryneſs of the ſkin, in the latter Caſe, and the diarrhæa, which had continued throughout a great part of the diſeaſe, and which might poſſibly contribute to render the ſkin dry and parched; though

though this circumſtance was not wholly diſregarded, yet it did not appear of ſufficient moment to decline the uſe of the medicine, while other material conſiderations ſtrongly indicated its propriety; eſpecially, as it might ſo eaſily be reſtrained, if exceſſive. Nay, rather, was it not proper, as far as could be done with ſafety, to conſpire with nature, if indeed it was her intention, to carry off part of the morbific matter by the looſeneſs? Be that as it may, the diſtemper was to be expelled, the ſizy diſpoſition of the fluids attenuated, (if indeed that be poſſible) now that the fever was threatening to leave us, and every thing ſeemed ready for that kindly *diaphoreſis* (k); the

(k) Sir JOHN PRINGLE ſays, "It is true, that I commonly added the diaphoretic powders, mentioned in "the cure of inflammatory fevers in general, but without having *any confidence* in them; and at no rate with "a view to promote any *ſenſible diſcharge by the ſkin.* "For though, in my firſt practice, I attempted, by "means of the *Spiritus Minderii*, and other medicines "of that nature, to force a ſweat, yet I was afterwards "con-

moſt uſual, and the moſt happy termination of the acute Rheumatiſm.

It will here perhaps be ſaid, Beſides the other differences already mentioned, how can the Caſes be the ſame, when, in the latter, three bleedings took place, and in the former but one? This anſwer will be ſufficient: That, notwithſtanding the intention was, undoubtedly, to ſubdue the fever by the lancet, a practice this but too common, yet, we find the fever did ſtill continue. The fact was (and this is

" convinced, that this was not the *proper manner* of " treating a Rheumatiſm *with fever*."——

Dr. BROCKLESBY, on the contrary, in ſome later Obſervations on the Rheumatic fever, ſays, "This quan- " tity, *viz.* half a drachm of Nitre, I repeated every " hour, or oftner, as the ſtomach would bear it; and " thereby I have often extended the doſes of Nitre to " ten drachms, or ſometimes to more, throughout every " twenty-four hours. Such quantities, in three or four " days, ſeldom failed wonderfully to relieve the patient, " and very often to cure him intirely, by the moſt *plen-* " *ful* and *profuſe* ſweats, which, without any other than " the method here recommended, frequently continued " without interruption, till near the criſis."—Who can reconcile theſe diſcordant obſervations of different obſervers, in one and the ſame diſorder!

prin-

principally to be regarded) that beneficial inſtrument of nature did not forſake us, but continued its ſervices ſo long, and ſo late in the diſorder, as to produce the happy effect which it did, and which in its co-operation with the medicine, was expected to be produced.

This was certainly an advantage in the preſent Caſe, and is a ſufficient anſwer to the objection.

It is a happineſs to find, that there is that latitude allowed us, with regard to the fever in this diſorder, that it will admit of repeated evacuations, even to a fifth or ſixth time. Riverius puſhed it to ten or twelve times. And indeed, where the principal part of the cure is reſted upon bleeding, this muſt be the caſe. Numerous repetitions will be neceſſary. But how the caſe may ſtand here, and whether we run no danger of introducing a debility into the conſtitution, by ſuch a practice, is worthy of the moſt ſerious conſideration. For if, after all, ſome remains of the diſeaſe be left in the habit, Nature thus weakened, may not be able

to effectuate their expulſion; and the conſequence to be apprehended, is a fixed and chronic (l) Rheumatiſm, either in a lower

(l) Sir JOHN PRINGLE, ſpeaking of the chronic Rheumatiſm, ſays, "It is *one* of the moſt obſtinate diſorders "of the Hoſpitals; being either the *remains* of a Rheu-"matic fever, or the continuation of pains that proceed "at firſt from neglected colds." Now if it be, according to the Doctor's own obſervation, the remains of a Rheumatic fever, what ſo probable to occaſion, and to render it obſtinate, as prematurely checking the fever, by "repeated and almoſt daily bleedings," thereby preventing a complete and finiſhed criſis?

☞ Since the above remark appeared in the former edition of my Caſes, Sir JOHN hath thought it adviſeable (ſuppoſing, as may be imagined, that it would be leſs likely to affect the propriety of his general practice of "re-"peated and almoſt daily bleedings,") to ſtate his obſervation very differently, thus—"The chronic Rheu-"matiſm I found one of the *more* (not, as formerly, "*moſt*) obſtinate diſeaſes of the Hoſpital, being either the "remains of a Rheumatic fever *ill-cured*, (a term which "had never occurred before) or pains," &c. *Ill-cured!* Sir JOHN's method of curing was by "repeated and al-"moſt daily bleedings.". Doth he mean then to inſinuate, that a contrary treatment; *viz.* the omiſſion of repeated and almoſt daily bleedings, left the fever *ill-cured?* —That could not be. It doth not appear that a ſingle attempt was made to remove this diſtemper without the lancet.

lower or higher degree, of ſhorter or longer duration.

But ſuppoſing nothing of this, how may the conſtitution, in other reſpects (though not immediately viſible) be impared, by running off ſo much of the blood of life in the courſe of a few days or weeks? What a train of diſorders may not ariſe from an impoveriſhed blood? May not new foundations be laid, in this practice, of turning a good conſtitution into a bad

lancet. One general method was purſued. The chronic Rheumatiſm, the ſuppoſed *remains* of a Rheumatic fever *ill-cured*, was, as fully appears, from the Doctor's own narration, a common diſorder of the Hoſpital, and was treated in one common way.—"Repeated bleeding," ſaith Sir JOHN, "was the chief remedy."—If then the chronic Rheumatiſm be, as the Doctor himſelf all along allowed, the remains of a Rheumatic fever *ill-cured*, nothing, as was before ſuggeſted, appears ſo likely, either to occaſion the complaint, or to render it obſtinate; nor can any *cure* be worſe, than that by "repeated "and almoſt daily bleedings."—The alteration, therefore, in the turn of the ſentence, doth by no means invalidate the force of the remark. To have done this, it was incumbent upon Sir JOHN to have ſhewn, that the *ill-treatment*, of which he ſpeaks, conſiſted in the *omiſſion* of bleeding. But this is not once attempted.

one,

one, making us an eaſier prey to future diſorders of various kinds? Though it may not be in our power to determine abſolutely how this matter may ſtand, conſidered in its remoteſt conſequences, we have reaſon at leaſt to apprehend ſome unhappy, though more diſtant effects.

Poſſibly it might be this apprehended conſequence, and the imperfect criſis which he had frequently obſerved to attend this practice of repeated bleedings, that made the great Sydenham pathetically (m) lament

(m) Dr. SYDENHAM, in a letter to Dr. BRADY, ſays, "As to the cure of the Rheumatiſm, which you likewiſe "deſired to be informed of, I have frequently regretted, "as well as you, that it could not be accompliſhed "without the loſs of a large quantity of blood, by re-"peated bleeding; whereby the ſtrength is not only "impaired for a time, but weak perſons are uſually "more diſpoſed to other diſeaſes for ſome years; when "the matter occaſioning the Rheumatiſm afterwards falls "upon the lungs, the latent indiſpoſition in the blood "being put into action, by taking cold, or ſome other "ſlight cauſe. Theſe reaſons induced me to ſearch after "ſome other method of curing this diſeaſe, than ſuch "repeated bleeding. And having well conſidered, "that

lament the neceſſity he was under of uſing the lancet ſo freely in this diſorder. He diſliked it ſo much, that we find, in the later period of his life, he even made attempts to do without it, and ſome very ſucceſsful ones.

But not to carry the matter ſo far: though nature, I believe, who hath ſubjected us to a great variety of accidents, hath not made us of ſuch very brittle materials, as to diſable us from bearing the loſs of moderate quantities of blood occaſionally; yet whilſt we congratulate

" that it ſeemed to proceed from an inflammation, as " appears from the other ſymptoms, but eſpecially from " the colour of the blood, which exactly reſembles that " of pleuritics, I judged it might probably be as ſuc- " ceſsfully cured, by a plain, cooling, and moderately " nouriſhing diet, as by repeated bleeding; and the " inconveniencies likewiſe attending that method a- " voided. Accordingly, I found that a diet of *Whey*, " uſed inſtead of bleeding, had the deſired effect."

In another part of his work he adds; " In young " perſons, and ſuch as live temperately, and drink wine " with moderation, the Rheumatiſm may be as ſuc- " ceſsfully cured by a very cooling and moderately " nouriſhing diet, as by repeated bleeding, which they " cannot ſo well bear."

ourſelves

ourſelves on the latitude allowed us in this complaint, we ought to be *ſparing* of carrying our privilege to its full extent (n); eſpecially, as the fever is ſo exceedingly

(n) Sir JOHN PRINGLE ſays, "That the Rheumatiſms "which occurred were generally of a milder kind, the "cure of which was commonly compleated in a few days, "by twice or thrice bleeding, &c." But adds, "if the "Rheumatiſm was attended with acute pains, or ſwel-"ling of the joints, the cure was chiefly to be obtained "by repeated and almoſt daily bleedings, till the feveriſh "heat and the pains were intirely removed, or made "much eaſier;" and adduces, with others, Dr. SYDENham, as following "the ſame method," without the leaſt intimation that SYDENHAM had totally changed both his ſentiments and his practice in that reſpect; which he hath expreſſed in the ſtrongeſt manner in his Letter to Dr. BRADY, and elſewhere (See note m, p. 42, 43.

☞ Thus I had ſtated the matter in a former edition. That I may not appear, (which I ſhould be very ſorry to do) to have miſrepreſented the caſe, take Sir JOHN's former and later words. Formerly he had ſaid, "This "method; *viz.* (repeated bleeding) has been ſince fol-"lowed by the beſt practical writers, and in particular "by RIVERIUS and SYDENHAM." The Doctor's words now are, "This method, *at leaſt in acute Caſes*, "was afterwards followed by the beſt practical writers, "and in particular by RIVERIUS and SYDENHAM." *At leaſt*

ceedingly inſtrumental in producing that perfect criſis which we wiſh for.

All

leaſt in acute Caſes!—But what of that? no one diſputes the fact. SYDENHAM undoubtedly bled freely in the inflammatory Rheumatiſm. But the main queſtion ſtill returns:—Did he not change both his ſentiments and his practice on that head; recommending, *from his own experience*, a method leſs exceptionable, and equally efficacious? This is moſt apparent, both from Dr. BRADY's letter, and SYDENHAM's reply; and the matter of ſurpriſe is, that Sir JOHN ſhould appear to juſtify his own practice by an authority which fails him totally. How ſhall we account for this?—Had Sir JOHN reſted the propriety of his practice on the reſult of his own long and painful experience, no one could have cenſured; on the contrary, it might have been highly meritorious in him, to have receded from what was *Sydenhamian*, or even *Hippocratic*. But SYDENHAM had his experiences alſo: and SYDENHAM tells us, in the moſt expreſs terms, that the reſult of them was a total change, both of ſentiment and practice. And how ſuch a circumſtance came to be omitted both in Sir JOHN's former and later editions of his book, remains to be accounted for.

Sir JOHN himſelf had obſerved, for a ſeries of years, (it is wonderful he ever ſhould have made the obſervation) that "in the acute Rheumatiſm, *internal* medicines "avail little." Might not the obſervation have applied equally to the *Hoſpital-Fever?*—He had obſerved, that, in the chronic Rheumatiſm, "riding is a ſpecific remedy:" this is *now* omitted.—Might it not have been affirmed

with

All that I argue for is this; not to diſturb nature more than we can help, nor to open a vein oftner, than what ſome violent or threatening ſymptom indicates; neither beginning with it too early, nor carrying it too far. Indeed, when the fever manifeſts very great violence, or the concomitant erratic pains ſhift ſuddenly, from the extremities, to

with more juſtice of the Cold Bath?—We were formerly told, that he gave hartſhorn, "to keep up a perſpiration." —*Now* we are told, that he gives thrice a day 40 (formerly 60) drops of the Spirit of Hartſhorn as a *cordial*, and *not* as a ſudorific. Would it not then be highly injurious in any ſucceeding writer, to quote the authority of Sir JOHN as a juſtification, either of his opinion or practice in the above reſpects, not to mention other inſtances, after his having, in a more recent publication, either wholly dropped his obſervations, or materially altered his practice?—This is exactly a caſe in point. I perſuade myſelf therefore Sir JOHN PRINGLE will find himſelf diſpoſed to do ample juſtice, in this reſpect, to the memory of Dr. SYDENHAM, who hath deſerved ſo well of the Faculty; who hath already reaped, and will continue to reap, thoſe honours which no earthly Potentate can confer; and whoſe works will be read and revered long after my Caſes in the Gout and Rheumatiſm, and Sir JOHN's Obſervations on the Diſeaſes of the Army, are buried in oblivion.

the

the more noble internal parts, affecting the ſides or the breath particularly, which now and then happens, it muſt be allowed.—

But I ſhall diſmiſs this Caſe for the preſent, as I may very probably be obliged to recur to it, in the Remarks on the ſubſequent Caſes, with obſerving, that notwithſtanding theſe leſſer differences, and variations, yet the diſorder gave way to the ſame treatment, and the expeditious cure was the effect of the ſame medicine.

CASE III.

HENRY ABCHURCH, of Dalſton, a gardener, in the 20th year of his age, of a tall, thin, ſanguineous habit, was in perfect health till the 4th of April 1773, when a *crick*, or *ſnatch*, as he expreſſed himſelf,

himſelf, ſeized his right leg all at once as he was walking: which ſoon affected his thigh, and, after ſitting down for ſome time, he became ſo ſtiff, and full of pain about his loins, that he was almoſt diſabled from riſing from his ſeat; nor could he get any reſt in the night; and, during the night, was unable to turn himſelf in bed, without aſſiſtance.

The next day he was ſenſibly feveriſh. And his complaints were encreaſed, particularly the pains in his loins. It removed afterwards to his left ancle, which became red and ſwelled, as did his knees and his wriſts afterwards, to a great degree. The pain and ſwelling, as they abated in one part, flew to, and increaſed in another. Though the thirſt and fever were conſiderable the whole time, yet no delirium was ever obſerved.

On the ſecond day after the ſeizure, he was bled, and Cordial Confection, with Sal. C. C. was given him; and, at intervals, purgatives, with Merc Dul.; and the tumified joints were rubbed with Opodeldoc.

Thus

Thus matters continued for a full fortnight, according to the beſt deſcription I could get of the Caſe.

When I was called in, the pains were confined to his knees and ancles chiefly, which were inflamed and ſwelled in ſome degree; and, though in a ſubſiding ſtate, he was ſtill unable to move them. His fever alſo was conſiderable; but not ſo active as it had been ſome days paſt; and from the beginning of his illneſs, he had been, as he was now, rather coſtive.

Seven ounces of blood were taken away, by my direction; which was ſizy and pleuritic: and the following draught given that night, and repeated twice the next day:

℞ Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. ʒ ſs.
Solve in Vitel. ov. Mucilag.
Gum. Arab. vel Mel. Com. q. ſ.
dein. adde gradatim
Aq. Hordeat. ʒ iſs.

Syr. Balſam. ℥ſs.
M. Fiat. Hauſt. (o)

In the evening of that day he quitted his bed. His fever left him, and his pains and ſwellings diſappeared intirely. A ſingle draught, with a dram and half of Elix. Paregor. was the only thing given him farther; and the patient hath continued from that time to this in perfect health.

(o) This form is put down once for all, for the ſatisfaction of ſuch as chuſe a form. For my own part, I generally give the Tincture in common water, when it can be ſo taken, with which it mixes very well, without any immediate ſeparation, when the Spirit is freſh and good, and the Gum good alſo; and thus ſits eaſieſt on the ſtomach, and bids faireſt for anſwering every intention.

REMARKS.

REMARKS.

THIS Caſe appears quite diſſimilar to both the former in *one inſtance*. The patient was bled in the earlieſt attack of the diſorder, the very day after the ſeizure.—Doth not this overturn all our former reaſoning?—No harm we find inſued; none, at leaſt, that was viſible. The medicine operated as ſucceſsfully, and as ſpeedily, after a ſecond bleeding, as in the former Caſe. We are therefore to ſuppoſe the matter was as well prepared, by coction and comminution, for expulſion, as if no ſuch ſtep had been taken; ſo that, what was conſidered as an advantage in the firſt Caſe, *viz.* the omiſſion of early bleeding, ſeems to fall to the ground at once.

To conſider this matter a little farther: as, in the preſent Caſe, early bleeding was

attended with no bad conſequences; ſo neither was the omiſſion, in the Caſe of Mary Wright.

Thus far matters are pretty even; but then, if the fever be an inſtrument in nature's hand, of ſo good omen and utility, the deciſion is evidently in favour of the omiſſion, unleſs ſome untoward ſymptom or circumſtance make it neceſſary. And this is all that is contended for.

But let it be remembered firſt, that Abchurch was only once bled, and that a full fortnight had elapſed, before I was called in, and directed him to be bled again; during all which time the fever had been very active, and doing that for us, which no human art or medicine can do; and every thing was ripe for the criſis, which was ſoon compleated after I ſaw him.

Let it be alſo obſerved, that as the firſt bleeding did no harm, ſo neither is it manifeſt, that any great good was gained by it. This however is certain, that the patient in the firſt inſtance received no injury

injury from the omiſſion. I cannot therefore help thinking it an advantage in Abchurch's Caſe, that nature was no farther diſturbed by veneſection, for ſo long a ſpace of time, as it gave an opportunity of a ſecond bleeding, immediately before the medicine was given. For it is adviſeable to adminiſter the medicine as ſoon as poſſible after the bleeding; beginning the uſe of it early in the evening, and repeating it early in the morning. But perhaps this is being too minute.

All that I mean is, that we ought not to attempt any thing ſo hoſtile to the fever, as to endanger its too early extinction; but ſo to conduct ourſelves, as not to diſoblige our beſt friend too much, and provoke him to leave us to ſtruggle with a cold chronic (p) Rheumatiſm, the

 cauſe

(p) Dr. CULLEN, in a recent publication, ſeems to be made fully ſenſible of this, and though, in conſiſtence with *his own* ſyſtem, an advocate both for general and topical bleedings in the acute Rheumatiſm, yet appriſeth us fully of the danger and inconveniences of ex-

cauſe of which, intrenching itſelf in ſome deep receſs of the body, may annoy us all our future days with continued pain and miſery,

My reaſoning hitherto hath proceeded

extending theſe evacuations too far. But take his own words.—"For the moſt part, large and repeated bleed-"ings, during the firſt days of the diſeaſe, ſeem to "be neceſſary, and accordingly have been much em-"ployed; but to this ſome bounds are to be ſet; for "very profuſe bleedings occaſion a ſlow recovery, and, "if not abſolutely effectual, are ready to produce a "*chronic* Rheumatiſm." — Again, "The attempt-"ing a Cure by large and repeated bleedings is "attended with many inconveniences, occaſioning a "ſlower recovery, rendering the perſon more liable "to a relapſe, and bringing on other diſeaſes." —— Nay, he acknowledgeth farther, "that though large "evacuations by the lancet, &c. do moderate the vio-"lence of the diſeaſe, and ſometimes *relieve* it intirely, "yet they ſometimes fail in this, and leave the cure "*imperfect*." Adding, "that the moſt effectual and "*ſafe* method of curing this diſeaſe, is, after ſome "general bleedings for taking off, or at leaſt dimi-"niſhing the *phlogiſtic diatheſis*, to employ ſweating, "properly conducted."—Now what is all this, but re-tailing in his own language (which to an Engliſh ear is rather uncouth) Dr SYDENHAM's own obſervations?

upon

upon the Caſes produced, and my own obſervations.

Let us now ſee, how the doctrine laid down will agree with, or is countenanced by, the principles and ſentiments of ſome of the moſt eminent medical writers; though it muſt be confeſſed, that their practice, on this head, differs from mine.

The great French phyſician Riverius began the cure of this diſorder with bleeding, and ſometimes repeated it even to ten or twelve times, reſtricting it only by the abatement of the complaint, or the apparent inability of the patient to bear more, without manifeſt injury. But at the ſame time, this excellent phyſician, who ſeems to have conſidered the diſorder with much attention, forbids purgatives and ſudorifics, in the beginning, the increaſe, or even when the fever hath arrived at its altitude and permanent ſtate; allowing gentle openers in the declination only, and the ſtronger purgatives not till the intire abſence of the fever, and ſudorifics not till after theſe, and laſt of all.

Now, let us aſk ourſelves this plain queſtion—If, in the opinion of this great man, nature ought not to be diſturbed, either by purgatives or ſudorifics, until the declination at leaſt of the fever, why ſhould ſhe be diſturbed and counteracted by bleeding, and weakening the fever unneceſſarily? The violence, thus offered to nature, by purgatives and ſudorifics, too early adminiſtered, did harm, and by no means anſwered the end propoſed. How, indeed, could this be otherwiſe; it being impoſſible to carry off the noxious matter, as yet not ſufficiently fitted for ſecretion and evacuation, and to paſs through the extreme fine ſtrainers and canals, which convey it to the ſurface of the body? And what, may we aſk, is ſo likely to produce this maturity, as nature's own inſtrument, the fever itſelf?

We may, I think, fairly gather, from the account he gives of his own management, that the diſorder was ſpun out to a conſiderable length, and no perfect criſis obtained, by bleeding *alone*; for, when the fever

fever was gone, after the uſe of the milder, he was conſtrained to fly to ſtronger and more draſtic purgatives; nay, farther, to bring up in the rear ſudorifics, warm baths, corroborants, *&c.* before he could intirely rout the enemy. And, it is more than probable, by this continual endeavour to ſubdue the fever, the diſorder was protracted to an unneceſſary length, and that a radical, and permanent cure, became as dubious as it was tedious. Had he been more ſparing of the lancet, his purgatives and ſudorifics would have been given with ſucceſs, the diſeaſe terminated ſooner, and with leſs danger of weakening the conſtitution.

Let it be farther remarked, that this great phyſician had himſelf obſerved (q),

(q) Quod ad prognoſim attinet, affectus iſte raro, aut nunquam vitæ periculum infert, ſed longitudine ſua magnam parit moleſtiam; ad duos enim vel tres menſes perſeverat, ſi ſit *ſine* febre; imo vero interdum, præcipue ſi non recte curetur, ad annum, vel plures annos extenditur.—Si *cum* febre rheumatiſmus oriatur, brevior eſſe ſolet, &c.

that

that a fever, along with the Rheumatiſm, was the happieſt omen of an abbreviated criſis, and a ſpeedy termination of the pain. Now, could any obſervation more ſtrongly confirm the utility of the fever in this diſeaſe, or ſo forcibly prohibit any violent meaſures to ſubdue it; when this very fever is confeſſedly the happieſt indication of the ſhortneſs of the diſorder? And doth not this obſervation of a juſtly celebrated phyſician, whoſe practice was directly contrary to the principle I have acted upon, give the ſtrongeſt countenance and ſupport to the above reaſonings and concluſions?

During my attendance upon theſe Caſes, I occaſionally conſulted our own countryman, the great Britiſh Hippocrates. And though indeed the practice of this immortal phyſician did not favour me, but was directly oppoſite to mine, (for he bled both early and freely in this diſeaſe, at leaſt in the former part of his life) yet his general theory with reſpect to all feveriſh diſorders, very much confirmed the principles, upon which I have conducted

ducted both my experiments, and treatment of it.

But, ſetting aſide his general theory, we ſhall find, on a careful examination, where he expreſsly treats on the Rheumatiſm, ſuch hints and paſſages as ſeem extremely concluſive in favour of what I am recommending.

Towards the cloſe of his deſcription of this diſorder, he ſays,—" In the begin-
" ning of the illneſs, the fever and the
" above-mentioned ſymptoms do ſome-
" times come together; but the fever
" goes off gradually, whilſt the pain con-
" tinues: occaſioned by the derivation
" of the febrile matter to the limbs,
" which the frequent return of the fever,
" from the repulſion of the morbific
" matter by external remedies, ſufficiently
" ſhews."

Let us now weigh well this obſervation; from which theſe two Queries naturally ariſe.

1ſt. If ſome external remedies, by repelling the morbific matter from the limbs, cauſe a return of the fever—Doth it

it not appear then, from the faireſt deduction, that the fever is the inſtrument of nature, to prepare the diſorder for expulſion; and that, if ſhe be not ſo happy as perfectly to effect this, by means of a general perſpiration, &c. ſhe lodges it upon the limbs, at a diſtance from the more vital parts?—— So kind is ſhe in all her operations!

2dly. If the fever, which from this plain indication appears to be thus expulſive of the diſeaſe, goes off for the moſt part gradually, "whilſt the pain "continues, and ſometimes increaſes;"— Doth not this give us the ſtrongeſt intimation of the caution to be uſed in the treatment of the fever, and prohibit any attempt to reduce it, either too early or too much?

The reaſonableneſs of this will be farther manifeſt, by obſerving what follows: where he ſays, "That though, when the "fever is gone off, this diſorder ſeldom "proves fatal: yet the violence of the "pain, and its long continuance, render "it no contemptible diſeaſe; and that, in "caſe

" caſe of wrong management, it frequent-
" ly remains, not only ſeveral months,
" but ſome years; nay, even during life:
" though, in this caſe, it is not equally
" painful, but hath its periodical returns,
" like the Gout; and the pain may poſ-
" ſibly go off ſpontaneouſly, after it hath
" been of very long ſtanding."

Now, doth not this tragical picture, with the additional circumſtance of " the " deprivation of a man's limbs during " life; the contractions on the internal " parts of the fingers more eſpecially, as " in the Gout, while the appetite and the " general health remain good;"—Doth not, I ſay, this tragical picture ſufficiently terrify us, with the too common conſequences of an unfiniſhed criſis?

This great author aſcribes theſe dreadful effects, frequently, to wrong management. But we may aſk, Whether there can be any management ſo wrong, as an attempt totally to extinguiſh that fever, which is ſo friendly and beneficial, and which he farther obſerves is apt " to go " off gradually," without an abatement,

and

and ſometimes with an increaſe of the pain?

Indeed, the great author, in the ſame paragraph, ſeems to intimate, as if the fever itſelf was the moſt alarming and dangerous circumſtance—" Though when " the fever is gone off," ſays he, " it ſel- " dom proves fatal,"—yet I cannot help thinking it to be more alarming in its appearance, than dangerous and fatal in its nature, agreeably to his own obſervation, That it " goes off gradually," the pain however continuing.

And it muſt be owned, that many perſons of great ſkill and practice, have entertained the ſame idea of eminent danger from the fever, and are thereby led to carry bleeding to a conſiderable length; it being their primary intention to ſubdue the fever, and to remove the ſubſequent pains by other methods in common uſe.

But ſo much for this.——I muſt however aſk pardon for the freedom of my remarks on thoſe two great phyſicians, Riverius and Sydenham. Of the latter it

it muſt be ſaid, but with due deference, that he departs more from nature, the phyſician's beſt guide, in this, than in his treatment of other diſeaſes; his ſentiments and his practice both fluctuating very much on this ſubject. And yet much more is to be learned from him, even in this more defective performance, than from any other writer. He is, however, the greateſt ornament to his country; and, in the ſphere of the phyſical world, ſhines amidſt a few ſcattered clouds of theory, with ſo ſuperior a light as juſtly to merit the poet's elegant compliment to the Julium Sidus,

—— *Micat inter omnes,*
—— *Velut inter ignes*
Luna minores.

CASE

CASE IV.

JOHN ALLEN, a porter, in the 29th year of his age, a ſtout, ſtrong-built man, of a ſanguineous habit, was ſuddenly ſeized in the beginning of July 1772, with the uſual feveriſh ſymptoms, particularly great ſickneſs at his ſtomach, which were ſoon followed with racking pains in his limbs.

Mr. Sherſon firſt ſaw him on the 9th of July, bled him freely, and the ſickneſs continuing, ordered him an emetic of antimonial wine, which was followed with gr. xv. of Dr. Dover's powder. The patient's joints being ſwelled, and exceeding red and painful, and the fever continuing, the diſorder evidently appeared to be an acute Rheumatiſm. He was bled thrice afterwards, had purgatives given him, at due intervals, conſiſting of Sena, Manna, Tart. Solubil.

Solubil. Sal. Polychreſt. with ſudorifics; ſuch as Camphor, Gum Guaiac. Eſſen. Antimon. Huxham. and other preparations of Antimony. By theſe means the pains and the fever abating conſiderably, or rather appearing to be ſubdued, a fair opportunity ſeemed to offer, of throwing in the Bark; which was done accordingly, and very liberally, both in ſubſtance and decoction. But as it ran off pretty quick downwards, it became neceſſary to diſcontinue it; and both the fever and the pains of the joints returning with equal, if not greater violence, recourſe was had to Sp. Minder. draughts, with Eſſen. Antimon. and the camphorated julep; checking the looſeneſs at the ſame time by a temperate uſe of opiates.

I ſaw him on the evening of the 18th, and having at that time a troubleſome cough, as well as flying pains, which now and then affected one ſide particularly, with the following ſymptoms, *viz.* fever, pulſe quick, but rather weak, tongue white and foul, urine turbid, and high coloured, with ſomething of a brick-

duſt ſediment; the joints of his fingers a little ſwelled, and here and there red and inflamed. Nocturnal and profuſe ſweats had alſo taken place; inſomuch, that he was obliged to change his linen frequently. No delirium then, or in any part of his illneſs. I ordered him a bliſter to the ſide affected; and a mixture with half an ounce of Elix. Paregor. and the ſame quantity of Sp. Vol. Aromat. of which four ſpoonfuls were to be taken every five hours.

The next day, the pain of his ſide abating, and obſerving the fever to be on the decline, I directed half an ounce of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. in three ounces of common water, and a drachm of ſyrup to be given twice that day, and four ſpoonfuls of the mixture every ſix hours.

The draught produced its uſual and deſired effect, both by urine, perſpiration, and ſtool. Not willing to puſh the matter farther, the ſucceeding day I ordered him a cordial draught, with volatile ſalts, and gutt. viii. of Tinct. Thebaic. to be taken morning and evening, adding to the mixture,

ture, the cough ſtill continuing obſtinate, half an ounce of ſpermaceti. The next day, *viz.* the 21ſt, eight ounces of blood were taken from him; and half an ounce of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. given two hours afterwards, and in the evening alſo, in two ounces and half of common water, and a drachm and a half of ſyrup of ſaffron; to which gutt. viii. of Tinct. Thebaic. were added, to determine it, as much as poſſible, to the ſurface, and to prevent its paſſing off too quickly downwards. On the 22d, it had procured three motions, as it did on its firſt exhibition, a free perſpiration, a large diſcharge by urine, and a total ceſſation of his pains and fever. A ſtrong decoction of the Bark, with Cordial Confection, was directed afterwards, and continued to the 26th;—when I left him perfectly well.

REMARKS.

THIS laſt Caſe differs from all the foregoing, in the following reſpects:—Great ſickneſs prevailed in the beginning;—a troubleſome cough through the whole of the illneſs;—flying, darting pains affected one ſide particularly, as in the pleuriſy,—which often happens;—and, in the more advanced ſtages of the diſorder, debilitating, profuſe night-ſweats.

Matters being in this ſituation, I reſolved to pauſe a little and to ſatisfy myſelf, with attempting to eaſe the cough, and to remove the erratic lateral pains, by ſuch means, however, as coincided with the general intention of the cure.

Fully convinced, from many appearances, that nature had aimed at a criſis for ſome days paſt, I conſidered theſe debilitating

bilitating colliquative ſweats as ſympto-matical merely, not critical; or, if criti-cal, as her feeble, ineffectual endeavours to throw off an oppreſſive load from the conſtitution: but, whether ſymptomatic or partially critical, moſt certain it is, the patient always found himſelf much the worſe after them.

Apprehending ſome danger from the diſorder, as being a little anomalous, and that it muſt either terminate in death, or be followed with ſomething worſe than death itſelf, an imperfect criſis; or, at leaſt, that it would be protracted to an un-neceſſary length, if the uſual methods only were purſued; I determined to try the me-dicine in this very late period of the diſ-order, when nature ſeemed to labour too much in her endeavours to effectuate a perfect criſis, being obviouſly calculated (in the language of medical writers) to *fuſe* the blood and ſizy diſpoſition of the fluids; to rouſe the languid ſpirits; to ex-cite a kindly and genial perſpiration, and to drive the diſtemper from the habit by every other outlet.

Such were the happy effects of this medicine, in theſe untoward circumſtances; and by giving it for two days only, a moſt ſalutary conſequence followed; nor can I entertain a doubt, but that, had it been given ſome days ſooner, the diſorder had been ſhortened, and the patient freed from much languiſhing and miſery. I blamed myſelf, on reflecting upon this caſe, for having acted with too much timidity.

Let me not forget this circumſtance, that the patient himſelf obſerved, that the ſweats which followed the medicine, were not exceſſive and profuſe; but that he felt a genial warmth and glow during their continuance, and came out of them ſenſibly better and refreſhed, whilſt the others lowered and weakened him.

It ought to be farther noticed, that the medicine was not given raſhly and at random. I could not help pauſing a whole day, a loſt day! doubtful, as things were circumſtanced, whether to give it or not. The urgency of the Caſe, however, joined to the foregoing reaſoning, and the fulleſt con-

conviction of its utility, determined me to try it; and the event ſpeaks for itſelf.

CASE V.

JOHN ALLEN, the perſon mentioned in the laſt Caſe, had a return of his Rheumatic complaints, about Midſummer laſt, (a twelvemonth's interval from his former ſeizure) attended with a ſmart fever, violent pain in his ſhoulders, arms, and legs; but without any ſwellings in his joints. His loins alſo were ſo ſtiff, that he was unable to riſe from his ſeat. All his complaints were aggravated by the warmth of the bed.

On the 2d day of his illneſs he had taken, by the advice of ſome of his friends, a doſe of Jalap, which operated very briſkly.

His pain and impatience were ſo great, on the evening of the 3d day, when I firſt

ſaw him, that he inſiſted upon ſomething being immediately done for his relief.

Twelve ounces of blood were taken away, and his old medicine, of which he had conceived a good opinion, directed twice a day.

Eight ounces more blood were taken away three days afterwards.

On the 6th, he thought himſelf intirely well; and deſired to walk abroad, which was permitted him, the weather being very fine.

During all this time, he was not confined (r) to his bed; and the medicine generally

(r) It hath ever been my practice, and the beſt conſequences have followed it, to recommend to my patients, when able, in this and all other inflammatory diſeaſes, to ſit up ſome hours every day, agreeably to Dr. SYDENHAM's advice, beyond compariſon the beſt guide in the treatment of ſuch diſorders. "I adviſe the "patient, ſays he, ſpeaking of the acute Rheumatiſm, "to ſit up ſome hours every day, becauſe the heat, "which proceeds from always lying in bed, promotes "and increaſes the diſeaſe." — "To prevent the pa- "tient being over heated during the continuance of "the diſtemper [the pleuriſy] I allow him to ſit up a "few hours every day, as his ſtrength will permit; "which

generally gave him three, and ſometimes four ſtools, in twenty-four hours.

In

" which indeed is of ſo much moment here, that if " he be kept always in bed, neither the plentiful eva- " cuation of blood, nor the moſt cooling medicines, " will ſometimes at all avail in conquering the ſymp- " toms."—And yet, aſtoniſhing to ſay ! It would ſeem as if this direction was of little or no conſequence, were we to judge ſolely from modern writers, or modern practice. This inattention, however, to ſo momentous a circumſtance, hath not paſſed unnoticed, or without juſt reprehenſion, by Dr. MUSGRAVE, in his late ſenſible Lectures before our College. " I know not, ſaith the " Doctor, whether I ſhall be pardoned for ſuppoſing, " that the direction of ſo celebrated a practitioner, hath " not been fully or properly attended to; but ſure, I " am, there is too much ground for the ſuppoſition.— " I collect it from this moſt remarkable circumſtance, " that almoſt all the writers on the pleuriſy [he might " have added, on the Rheumatic fever alſo] from the " time of SYDENHAM, to the preſent hour, have paſſ- " ed it over in ſilence. There are, it is true, a few " exceptions. — But the writers who have diſregarded " this precept, are much more numerous.—Dr. HUX- " HAM, in a very prolix diſcourſe, containing perhaps " every thing elſe that the argument could ſuggeſt, hath " not a word or ſyllable relative to what SYDENHAM " conſiders as eſſential to the ſucceſsful treatment.— " I could name authors, not a few, of our own age — " who have written profeſſedly on the ſubject, and been " equally

In about ten days time, I was ſent for again, and informed my patient was taken as

" equally inattentive to this circumſtance.—If we con-
" ſider the authority and reputation of SYDENHAM,
" and the very poſitive and ſtriking manner in which
" this aphoriſm is delivered, it is difficult to conceive
" that ſo many writers ſhould have paſſed it over with
" deliberate contempt."

" A remark, continues the Doctor, will here natu-
" rally occur, that if this cooling practice is really ne-
" ceſſary to the cure of the diſeaſe, the practitioners
" who have neglected it, muſt have been very unſuc-
" ceſsful in their treatment of ſuch patients.—The ſup-
" poſition however humiliating, is ſtrongly countenan-
" ced by their writings. For let any one compare the
" account they give of the diſorder in its advanced
" ſtate, with what SYDENHAM ſays of it, and he will
" find the difference to be enormous. Their deſcrip-
" tions are full of miſery, ſuffering and danger. —
" What on the contrary does SYDENHAM ſay? Inſtead
" of a long catalogue of alarming and troubleſome ſymp-
" toms—he tells us with confidence, that the cure of
" the pleuriſy, *in the method laid down by him*, is as
" ſafe and certain as that of any diſorder whatſo-
" ever."

" After having ſaid thus much of the excellency of
" SYDENHAM's method, it will naturally be aſked,
" whether I have myſelf followed it exactly, and with
" what ſucceſs? — I anſwer — that I have tried both
" ways; that I have cured patients whom I ſuffered to

" lie

as ill as ever. I found his pulſe quick and ſtrong, and the joints of his fingers ſwelled a little, and inflamed. He was bled once more,

" lie in bed, but that in thoſe caſes the ſymptoms have " always run conſiderably higher, and continued much " longer, than ſince I have adhered more exactly to " SYDENHAM's method; under which the diſorder " takes ſo different an appearance, that I am confident " no man who tries them both, will at all heſitate to " give it the preference."

There is another rule of Dr. SYDENHAM's in inflammatory diſorders of very great, though, perhaps, not of equal moment with the foregoing, but which is as much neglected in practice. I mean his adviſing, among other diluting liquors, *ſmall beer*. And the above two plain and ſimple directions of the good old man's, are, in my opinion, of more real importance, than any precepts of later writers, not copied from him, though dreſſed out with far more pomp and parade. And it is ever to be lamented, as Dr. MUSGRAVE obſerves, " that this learned and excellent author is much more " commended, than read."

To the abovementioned rules, however, I take the liberty to add on my own experience (following ſtill the principles of this great man) this farther direction, *viz.* to attend to and indulge the natural cravings and deſires of the patient, much more than is generally done, and that, in all caſes whatſoever. This, it may be depended upon, will be followed with the moſt beneficial effects.

more, and the medicine repeated twice a day, for three days; when a perfect criſis being formed, and the fever and ſwelling diſappearing, the Bark was directed, which in a few days reſtored him to his uſual health and activity.

REMARKS.

THIS Caſe differs from any of the foregoing, more in the manner of treatment, than in any peculiar ſymptoms in the diſorder itſelf. On the ſecond day after the attack, a ſtrong draſtic purgative was given. An attempt was made to put a period to the diſorder in as ſpeedy a manner as poſſible, by the united effort of bleeding, and a medicine, of whoſe efficacy, in this diſorder, I had the fulleſt experience.

The ſucceſs anſwered my utmoſt expectation;

pectation; at leaſt, if any effect may be attributed to the medicine, it was followed with as good ſucceſs, as the medicines uſually given on the like occaſions, and on which practitioners wholly depend: I mean ſaline, or nitrous draughts; eſpecially, if we take into the account, the (s) trifling

(s) Dr. BROCKLESBY, in his *medical obſervations* on military diſeaſes, hath juſtly reprobated "The inefficacy "of the common practice of phyſicians, in giving nitre "about this town," and orders drachms inſtead of ſcruples.—"I directed, ſays he, the following regimen: That, "for diet and ſuſtenance, the ſick ſhould be enjoined only "to drink, for ſome days ſucceſſively, the greateſt quan-"tities of ſmooth, boiled water-gruel, that their ſtomachs "would endure; in each quart of it, I directed two "drachms of pure nitre to be diſſolved, with or without "ſugar occaſionally, and I repeated, at proper intervals, "as often as ever the ſtomach would bear it, large "draughts of this nitrous decoction warmed; by which "method I often prevailed on the ſoldiers to take even "ten drachms of nitre, or more, the firſt twenty-four "hours, in three, four, five, or ſix quarts of diluting "drink." This was no "preſumptuous" attempt in the Doctor; on the contrary, the world is obliged to him for his cautious experiments, and daring to quit the beaten road of practice.—I would only take leave to ſuggeſt, for the Doctor's reflection, whether the "plen-"tiful

trifling doſes in which they are commonly given. To me they have long appeared, as almoſt inſignificant; and the beſt that can be ſaid of them, in this complaint at leaſt, is that they are harmleſs; and may ſerve to amuſe the patient and bye-ſtanders, till a fair opportunity offers of doing ſomething more efficacious.

Let it be obſerved here, that in the former part of Allen's ſecond caſe, no ſwellings appeared. How indeed could it be expected (t)—For, not to mention the large evacuations

" tiful and profuſe ſweats" were not excited as much, by ſo great a dilution, as by the *ſudorific* quality of the nitre; eſpecially, if regard be had to the nature of the diſorder.

(t) Dr. MONRO, in his account of the diſeaſes of the *Military Hoſpitals*, ſays—" We had but very few Rheu-" matiſms, accompanied with ſwelling, pain, and inflam-" mation of the joints of the knees and wriſts, &c. which " are ſo common in our hoſpitals about *London*."—Is not this ſufficiently accounted for, by telling us,—that " We " blooded freely, and repeated the evacuation often, if " the blood continued *fizy*?"—For it is very well known, that the patients who are ſent to the hoſpitals in town, have frequently had their complaints upon them a week,

a

evacuations made by the doſe of Jalap, the common practice of early bleeding might

a fortnight, or more, before any aſſiſtance had, or rather, as I ſhould ſay, before nature had been obſtructed in her ſalutary operations, by too free, and too frequent evacuations by the lancet.

The practice of repeating the evacuation *ſo long as* the blood continues *ſizy*, is certainly moſt injudicious; and whoever follows this rule, without a due attention to other more important and leſs fallacious circumſtances, muſt do it oftentimes to the manifeſt injury, if not the death of the patient.

☞ Dr. PRINGLE had expreſſed himſelf equally unguardedly on this head, ſaying, "If the blood in the "chronic Rheumatiſm is not *ſizy*," (in the hoſpitals, he *had* informed us it was always ſo) "we may ſuppoſe the "ſoldier either pretends indiſpoſition, or that the pains "are of another nature." — But he *now* acknowledges, *after my remark upon the words above and below*, "that "he has ſince ſeen perſons of better condition, with the "ſame complaints, and under no temptation to diſguiſe "their caſe, *without* — any viſible *alteration* in their "blood."—Notwithſtanding, the Dr. ſtill ſuffers himſelf to ſay, referring doubtleſs to his former, not to his later practice, "whenever I found it inflamed, I made the "patient loſe blood—*as long as* it continued *ſizy*, or his "complaints remained."

Dr. HUXHAM ſpeaks much in the ſame manner, but with marks of greater attention: "More blood ſhould be "drawn,

might obſtruct nature in her ſalutary operations, and prevent her, by ſuch premature

" drawn,——eſpecially if it appears firm and denſe, or " covered over with a *tough* yellowiſh coat or *buff*, as " it is called, which, however, *very frequently* doth *not* " appear, till the ſecond or third bleeding, though the " ſymptoms may indicate a very high inflammation." Further, " the denſe buffy appearance of the blood, with " a firm ſtrong pulſe, will warrant the drawing off " blood, &c." — But would not a firm ſtrong pulſe, and ſymptoms indicating a very high inflammation, warrant the drawing off blood, even where none of this tough yellowiſh coat or buff doth appear; ſince we we are told in the preceding ſentence, " That it very " frequently doth not appear till the ſecond or third " bleeding?"——

The ſizy ſurface of the blood, therefore, can be no rule, for the propriety of veneſection, becauſe it is uncertain whether it doth exiſt or not, previous to the operation; and when it doth make its appearance, it is not frequently till the ſecond or third bleeding; and then, who will ſay to what length it is to be carried?—To continue the practice *as long as* it doth appear, would undoubtedly be (as was ſaid above) to the detriment, if not the deſtruction of the patient. And beſides, this inflammatory cruſt, as it is called, is often produced as a juſtification for drawing off blood in Caſes, where it is often to be regretted, that it hath been taken away at all; as for inſtance, in putrid fevers, dropſies, and in the moſt infirm conſtitutions. See note h. p. 32. and note i. p. 35.

ture diſcharges, from throwing the diſorder, in her uſual manner, on the joints, ſo copiouſly as could have been wiſhed.

But mark the event:—though the patient found himſelf ſenſibly relieved, nay, thought himſelf perfectly well, and walked abroad; yet, in no long time, the diſorder ſhewed itſelf afreſh. His fever returned, and his joints ſwelled, and were ſlightly inflamed: nor did it appear that this was occaſioned by any irregularity, or the acceſſion of cold.

This was exactly the caſe in his firſt ſeizure. After ſeveral bleedings, and when the fever had been ſo far ſubdued thereby, that a fair opportunity ſeemed to offer, and it was accordingly embraced, of throwing in the Bark; yet, notwithſtanding, the fever and the pains returned with equal intenſeneſs; nay, poſſibly, had not the Bark paſſed off pretty quick by ſtool, ſome worſe conſequences might have enſued.

Nothing, however, could prove more ſatisfactorily, the ſafety of the medicine, than the Caſe before us; wherein it was given, not in the latter ſtage merely, but

almoſt in the very beginning of the diſeaſe, and continued for ſeveral days, along with ſuitable evacuations by the lancet.

It cannot, ſurely, be objected to the medicine, that it failed of ſucceſs, becauſe the diſorder returned (u) ſoon afterwards. The ſame objection would lie, equally, againſt the uſe of ſaline, nitrous, antimonial, and camphorated medicines; all of which proved ineffectual, in preventing a relapſe in this ſame perſon, when formerly attacked with this complaint, after the uſual indeed, but, in my opinion, the injudicious practice of early and repeated bleedings.

But, if it ſhould be denied, that any advantage was obtained by the medicine, previous to the relapſe; if the whole of the eaſe and relief which was procured, ſhould be aſcribed, not to the medicine (and I ſhould be unwilling that more ſhould be aſcribed to it, that what it juſtly deſerved)

(u) May not the Rheumatiſm, that *agnatus morbus* to the Gout, as BOERHAAVE ſomewhere calls it, appear with its uſual ſymptoms in more fits than one?

but

but to the loſs of blood, it muſt ſtill be allowed, to be as efficacious as any medicines in common uſe, where copious bleeding takes place along with them.

It ought not by any means to be forgotten, that it was at the preſſing inſtigation of the patient, overcome with the moſt exquiſite pain and anguiſh, that I departed from a general rule, in drawing off blood, both early and freely, and adminiſtering too his old remedy, in ſo recent a ſtage of the diſeaſe. It was the firſt inſtance, in which I remember to have done it. The experiment was made with caution; and ſuch are certainly allowable, when no way hazardous.

But if we are to conſider this laſt attack, not as a freſh diſorder occaſioned either by ſome irregularities, or the influence of the ſeaſon, but as a prolongation of the original complaint (and ſuch I did then conſider it) let it be remarked, that the medicine was given at the very time, in which I had always given it, *viz.* in the latter ſtage of the diſorder, when nature appearing to have made her laſt and full effort

to relieve herſelf, by throwing the diſorder on the extremities, and evincing by every other indication, that ſhe was ready for this aſſiſtance, gave the moſt flattering hopes of a perfect criſis. I ſucceeded in this laſt caſe, as happily as in the firſt inſtance, and by the very ſame means.

CASE VI.

HANNAH SKELTON, of Lowlayton, aged forty, of a ſtrong make, and full ſanguineous habit, was, on the 7th of December 1773, ſeized with a ſharp pain in her ſhoulders, which ran down to her wriſts. She had alſo flying ſtitches, or catches (as ſhe called them) about her ſtomach, which moved (x) hourly from one ſide

(x) Hot and inflammatory Rheumatiſms have all the ſymptoms of the Gout, and like it, change from place to place,

ſide to the other, like a dart, and which, at times, affected her breathing. Nature had been obſtructed in the *ſexual* operation for above ten weeks; but on the 15th manifeſted itſelf again with proper vigour, as when moſt regular.

On the 16th, I found her puiſe quick, but low; her thirſt conſiderable, tongue white, both wriſts a little ſwelled, but not inflamed. No ſwellings in any other part. She was coſtive, but had taken no medicines.

I directed the medicine, as in the Caſes above related, twice a day. On taking the very firſt doſe, the ſtitches and pains at her ſtomach intirely ceaſed, and ſhe was inabled to breath with eaſe and freedom. The ſwellings in her wriſts increaſed, and the joints of the fingers became here and

 there

place, and by other violent evacuations may be tranſlated upon the noble organs; and by the way, it may not be amiſs to obſerve, that exceſſive bleedings, and other violent evacuations, conſtantly bring a hectic, or a dropſy on the patient in this caſe, diſeaſes of a much more dangerous nature in themſelves, and far more difficult to be cured, than the original one. CHEYNE.

there red and inflamed. Her ancles alſo ſwelled conſiderably, a day or two afterwards; but without any appearance of redneſs.

In this method ſhe continued till the 20th; when finding every thing as I could wiſh, at the extremities, and a diſpoſition to a looſeneſs coming on, I thought proper to relax a little, directing only two drachms of the Volatile Tincture of Valerian, twice a day, leaving directions for taking away as much blood as ſhe could well bear, (being all along faint and weak), as ſoon as the catamenia had intirely left her. That was done accordingly the next day, and the blood had its uſual buffy and ſizy appearance. The Guaiacum draught was repeated twice a day, from the 22d to the 25th; when all her complaints ceaſing, it was directed only once a day; and I left her to all appearance perfectly well. On the 7th of January, I was informed, that ſhe remained quite free from her fever and her pains; but ſtill continued very low. On which I recommended the Bark, and the cold bath.

While

While theſe ſheets were at the preſs, the 12th of February, I accidentally met the patient who informed me ſhe had omitted the cold bath; but on taking the Bark, grew daily better, and was then in full health.

REMARKS.

THE reader will obſerve, that this Caſe continued in hand, longer than any of the former.

Might not this be owing, in ſome meaſure, to the ſeaſon of the year? or to the languid ſtate of the fever? For it was not that active fever, which ſometimes accompanies this diſorder, in the ſpring more eſpecially. And though, after giving the medicine, the diſeaſe was thrown abundantly on the wriſts, and joints of the fingers, and remarkably ſo on the ancles; yet might not

the natural diſcharge, which continued for ſeveral days, carry off much of the complaint? Might not that evacuation contribute alſo to lower the fever, and prevent its riſing to its uſual height? Were not the ſtitches, which affected the patient's ſtomach, and flew perpetually from ſide to ſide, occaſioned by the retroceſſion of the diſtemper from the circumference towards the center, owing to the more than uſual languor, and low eſtate of the patient, or to the ſlowneſs of nature's beſt inſtrument, the fever itſelf?—Be that as it may—It appeared to me of abſolute neceſſity, by the moſt efficacious means to keep the malady at a diſtance from the vital parts; and, on ſome future, and more favourable occaſion, endeavour totally to expel it. The Caſe itſelf, and its effects, beſt ſpeak, whether my conjectures were right.

The reader may ſee here, that the medicine, call it rheumatic, arthritic, or what you pleaſe, had ſhewed that accommodation (if I may ſo ſpeak) to this diſorder, as to throw it from the interior parts,

parts, to thoſe extreme ones, where nature, when ſtrong enough, is generally inclined to depoſit it, in order to its elimination.

And now perhaps, at the concluſion of theſe Caſes upon the acute Rheumatiſm, I may be aſked, Would you chooſe to give this medicine, under the notion of its having a ſpecific quality, in the riſe or increaſe of this complaint? Perhaps the queſtion is not ſo eaſily anſwered. Beſides, it is rarely the lot of the phyſician to be called in at the commencement of the diſorder. In one inſtance, it hath already appeared what was done, and how the medicine acted.

In my opinion, the latter caſe of Allen, to which I refer, Janus-like, hath two faces; for it doth not give great encouragement to adminiſter it very early in the diſeaſe; becauſe the criſis ſeemed unfiniſhed, and to occaſion ſo quick a return of the diſorder. Yet the medicine ſhewed a certain aptitude to remove the complaint, from the very beginning; and, on its return, with the aſſiſtance of once bleeding to favour

favour its activity, a perfect criſis was produced in three days.—All I ſhall ſay at preſent is, that if we muſt take the diſorder *out of nature's hands*, (too general a practice) I ſhould ſooner do it by this, than by any other medicine.—Future experiments can alone aſcertain, how early in the diſeaſe, and with what certain advantage, it may be ſo given.

As to the medicine itſelf, it is a gentle opener (y), diſſolving, by its activity, the coagulated fæces in the bowels, without pain or griping; nor is it a violent ſudorific. Poſſibly it may alſo fuſe and incide the viſcid parts of the blood, as it paſſes through the circulation; or, by invigorating the coats and fibres of the veſſels, may reſtore an equilibrium betwixt the ſolids and the fluids. But I ſtop ſhort, leſt I tread the fairy ground of theory,

(y) GEOFFROY ſays of the Gum—"Guaiacum craſſa "incidit & attenuat, lenta detergit, obſtructa aperit "& liberat, ſudores provocat, urinam ciet, &c. &c. "Dolores Rheumaticos dictos tollit, podagram, chy- "ragram, iſchiada, omnemque arthritim mire juvat, "&c."

and

and pretend to know, what no man living doth or can know.

As to its being hot or cold alſo, I leave that to others, who are much wiſer than myſelf, in the words of Dr. Quincy, when ſpeaking of the virtues of *Camphire*:— "It hath been much debated," ſays he, "whether this be really hot (z) or cold: its "ſenſe upon the palate, at firſt taking, "perſuading the former; and its uſeful- "neſs in *allaying inflammations*, encourag- "ing the latter opinion. If by warmth "is underſtood ſuch a ſubtilty of parts, "as diſpoſes them to briſk motion and "to agitate what is about them; this has

(z) As to the Volatile part of the medicine,—"The "Salt of Hartſhorn," ſays Dr. PRINGLE, "was only "uſed occaſionally in great depreſſions; and even "in other Caſes, I have never been ſenſible [the "obſervation is a juſt one] of its raiſing any in- "flammatory or fixed heat, but only a momentary "glow."

How different this from, but how much more juſt than the words of Dr. HUXHAM, "It is a certain "fact—that Volatile alcalious Salts—given internally, "heat vaſtly more, quantity for quantity, than the "*warmeſt* vegetable alexipharmics!"

"as

" as good title to be ſo, as any thing
" which is not actual fire. And for its
" *allaying inflammations*, that may be done
" by the ſubtilty of its parts, dividing
" and diſcuſſing ſo far the obſtructed hu-
" mours, that they either perſpire, or are
" taken up again into circulation by the
" refluent blood."

Philoſophy ſtands neuter in this debate.

Having thus given a pretty full and particular account of a few Caſes, which have come before me from the *limited time*, which I had aſſigned myſelf, *viz.* from July 1772, to December 1773, it may perhaps ſatisfy the curioſity of ſome, to be acquainted with my reaſons for giving this medicine, not only in a diſorder in which I had neither ever ſeen, heard, or read of its being given; but alſo in a quantity ſo unuſually large, as well as ſo little diluted.—Will it ever be imputed as a crime, to vary or exceed the line of common (a) practice?

(a) Dr. LANGRISH obſerves, that " Too much cre-
" dulity

" dulity in matters of phyſic has been a principal " cauſe of the ſlow advancement of that art. An ab- " ſolute reſignation to the opinion of any man, how " great ſoever, without taking proper pains to judge, " examine, and ſearch into the truth of it, is a ſlaviſh " ſubmiſſion, and very unbecoming a rational crea- " ture."

" Let *great Authors* (ſays Lord BACON) have their " due; but ſo as not to defraud *Time*, which is the " *author* of *authors*, and the *parent* of *truth*."

REASONS

REASONS

Inducing me to make Trial of Tinctura Guaiacina Volatilis in the acute Rheumatiſm.

THE ample experience I had of the utility of Volatiles, in the latter ſtages of other acute and inflammatory diſorders, in which a viſcid and ſizy diſpoſition of the fluids was apparent, left no doubt with me, that they might be beneficial alſo in the acute Rheumatiſm, where there was no diſcernible difference in the ſtate of the blood. Of their great utility in other inflammatory diſorders, in the Pleuriſy for inſtance, I had abundant proof; if ſo, what ſhould forbid their uſe

uſe in a complaint, where the ſtate and appearances of the blood are perfectly ſimilar? and in a diſorder too, where the fever is leſs dangerous, as, according to Dr. Sydenham, "it is apt to go off of "itſelf."

And with regard to the Gum in the compoſition of this medicine, if it hath any efficacy in allaying the pains; or may at all be conſidered as having a ſpecific quality in the chronic, no good reaſon could be aſſigned, as far as appeared to me, why it ſhould not alſo be given in the acute Rheumatiſm. Having thus weighed matters, many years ago, in my own mind, I determined to make the experiment; which turned out agreeably to my expectations and previous reaſonings; and with what manifeſt advantage I have continued it ever ſince, let the reader judge for himſelf, from the Caſes above recited. Facts, and not Theories, muſt determine this matter.

No diſpenſatories, with which I am acquainted, ever ſpeak of the doſe exceeding

ing two drachms (b), *i. e.* half the quantity in which I have directed it. Few, if any, of

(b) I cannot omit obſerving here, that the anonymous compiler of a little book, intitled, *The London Practice of Phyſic*, hath, in a ſecond edition, lately publiſhed, added a table of the doſes of medicines, in which he puts down Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. ℥ ſs. ter die. Whether this table was added to the former impreſſion, I have had no opportunity of knowing. I rather imagine not. My reaſons for thinking ſo are, (it would give me pain to do the author the leaſt injuſtice) becauſe in no part of the book is any mention made of the *How*, or *When*, it is to be thus given: and farther, from his fixing the doſe of the Tinct. Valerian. Vol. at ſo low a rate, as from gutt. xx. to ℥ ii. Whereas theſe two medicines, being made with the very ſame ſpirit, no one, it is probable, who had been accuſtomed to give the one in the quantity of half an ounce, would think of giving the other in a leſs proportion, on fitting occaſions. I have frequently directed Tinct. Valerian. Vol. ℥ ſs. in two ounces of common water, even to ladies, of no very robuſt conſtitutions, affected with nervous and hyſteric complaints; to ſome, every ſix hours, to others twice a day, with the greateſt benefit.—A gentleman, who was lately ſeized with a trembling in his hands, in a morning, which diſabled him from holding his pen, was perfectly cured by taking the Tinct. Valerian. Vol. as mentioned above, in a very little time, without the leaſt return

of them carry it ſo high. Geoffroy, indeed, ſays, his Tincture of Guaiacum may be given to half an ounce. Now that is made with Sp. Vin. rectificatiſſim. not with Sp. Vol. Aromat. — Nor is he ſo *minute* as to mention, to what degree he diluted it.

During the earlier proſecution of my medical ſtudies, I had never ſeen it di-

return of the complaint. It may even be given to the quantity of an ounce, or more. For thus I have, in ſeveral late inſtances, given the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. without the leaſt inconvenience; but it is unqueſtionably a much more prudent method to direct it, as I have generally done, in divided doſes.

While I am upon this ſubject, I may juſt mention, that the Balſam. Guaiac. the utmoſt doſe of which, is here ſaid to be two drachms, may be ſafely carried higher occaſionally. It is uſual with me alſo to give the Balſam. Traumat. to the quantity of half an ounce every ſix hours: whereas this writer mentions two drachms, as being the full doſe.

Theſe things are hinted to encourage a more effectual method of practice, to diſpel any timidity in adminiſtering theſe, or ſuch-like medicines, when directed, and to anſwer the ſame intention, with which the book profeſſes to be written, for the uſe of younger practitioners.

rected otherwiſe than in drops (ſo it ſtands in moſt writers) or a tea-ſpoonful at a time at moſt.

I could not therefore but be ſurpriſed, afterwards, whilſt I was attending Guy's Hoſpital,—in the years 1754, 1755, and 1756, to find it daily given to the quantity of half an ounce.

It was firſt introduced there, according to the beſt information I could get, by the late Dr. Munckley; and might poſſibly be occaſioned by the following circumſtance. Mr. Girle, an eminent ſurgeon, had been for a long time afflicted with a Sciatica(c), or Hip-Gout;

(c) Mercurials, antimonials, and opium have all along been recommended for the cure of, and given in this obſtinate complaint. Dr. FOTHERGILL, in the 4th vol. of the *Medical Obſervations and Inquiries*, publiſhed ſo long ago as 1771, prefers the following manner of giving them in this diſorder, aſſuring us, "That he hath "found it of ſingular ſervice, after various other me-"dicines and operations, recommended for the cure of "this complaint, had been uſed to very little pur-"poſe."

℞ Calom. levig. gr. x.
Conſerv. roſ. q. s. f. pil. x. non deaur.
Capiat j. omnia nocte ſuperbibendo hauſt. ſeq.
℞ Aq.

Gout; for the removal of which he had taken this tincture, for a great length of

 time,

℞ Aq. alexet ſimp. ℥ iſs.
—— alexet ſpir. ʒ iſs.
Vin. antimon. gut. xxx.
Tinct. Theb. gut. xxv.
Syr. ſimp. ʒ j.

"If, continues the Doctor, the pain does not abate, "by the time this quantity is taken, I increaſe the doſe "of *calomel* to two grains one night, one the next, and "thus proceed alternately. When the pain abates, "the anodyne and antimonial are gradually leſſened; "perhaps omitted every other night, or wholly dropped. "I have ſeldom met with a genuine *ſciatica*, but has "yielded to this proceſs in the ſpace of a few weeks, and "has as ſeldom returned."

Now, I have hitherto purpoſely omitted making any remarks upon, or ſo much as hinting at, what hath occurred to me in ſeveral inſtances on purſuing the ſame method; and ſhall here only barely ſuggeſt, that to perſons of robuſt habits (ſuch I have generally found thoſe who have called for my aſſiſtance, I prefer giving mercurials once or twice a week, as Dr. RADCLIFFE, MEAD, &c. had done before me, in pretty large doſes, joined with the more draſtic purgatives, and, on the intermediate days, ſuch medicines as are in common uſe, among which the Guaiacum is certainly not the leaſt efficacious. It is not without reluctance that I expreſs my diſſent from Dr. FOTHERGILL on this head, and, perhaps, we may only in opinion, not in reality differ; as the propriety

of

time, but to no purpoſe. Wearied out with the pain, he applied to Sir Edward Hulſe,

of my practice may be founded on a difference in the habits of the patients merely. But be that as it may—No other apology can be neceſſary than what I offer in the Doctor's own words. "While I pay great "deference, not only to the experience of my brethren "of the faculty, but even to their opinions, they will "not wiſh me to give up my own implicitly."

I have ſaid above, that I had purpoſely omitted taking any notice reſpecting either what Dr. FOTHERGILL had recommended for the cure of the ſciatica, or more eſpecially the reaſon given for, and the authority on which he ſeems to found part of his practice in this diſorder, hoping that either he himſelf would ere this have diſcovered, or that ſome of his brethren at leaſt of the *Medical Society*, before whom his paper was read, (22d of Auguſt 1768) would have admoniſhed him of his overſight.

"The anodyne above directed, ſaith Dr. FOTHER-"GILL, has other properties than that of an opiate "merely. Like as in DOVER's famous powder, the "anodyne in this compoſition, when duly proportioned, "reſtrains the antimonial from exerting its uſual effi-"cacy on the ſtomach and firſt paſſages, and conducts "it to the remoteſt parts of the circulation, rendering "it an uſeful and efficacious medicine in many painful "diſorders."

Now DOVER's powder contains not a ſingle particle of an *antimonial*. Nor can I poſſibly account how

Hulſe, who aſked him, what he had done for himſelf? On being informed that he had only taken a tea-ſpoonful of this Tincture; he deſired him to continue his medicine, but, inſtead of taking it by tea-ſpoonfuls, the ordinary and common quantity, to take table-ſpoonfuls; which he did accordingly, and was thus effectually cured.

how the Doctor came to make this miſtake, much leſs how the *Medical Society*, before whom we are informed this paper was read, could permit ſuch a circumſtance to paſs unnoticed; and to continue from that time to this, even in a ſucceeding impreſſion of this volume, without any alteration. Willing to make every favourable allowance, I have been inclined to think we muſt certainly mean two different powders, or that DOVER himſelf had made ſome alteration reſpecting this powder before his death. But nothing of this kind appears. On the contrary, in the very chapter where the compoſition is given, and which I have inſerted above (ſee note d. page 23, 24,) Dr. DOVER informs us, that in the former editions [the 4th is before me, nor have I ever had acceſs to any other] he had made a conſiderable omiſſion; but ſuggeſts not the leaſt hint that he either had made, or wiſhed to make, the leaſt alteration in his powder.

Upon the whole, had the Doctor ſaid, and this perhaps may be all his meaning, "like as the opium in DOVER's powder reſtrains the ipecac, &c. ſo doth *it* in this compoſition reſtrain the antimonial," &c. All then would have been natural and eaſy, and every ambiguity avoided.

— So much for its introduction into that Hoſpital.

As was very natural, I paid a cloſe attention to the *manner* of giving, as well as to the effects of a medicine, which then appeared ſo extraordinary.

It was at that time conſtantly ordered to be taken twice a day, in half a pint of barley-water, in the chronic, but never in the acute Rheumatiſm. And from an authentic teſtimony, which I have by me, bearing date November 7th, 1772, it appears unqueſtionably, that it had never been given there in the *acute*, though its uſe had all along been retained; and its ſafety and great utility, in the *chronic* Rheumatiſm, acknowledged in the fulleſt manner.

Many perſons found a great difficulty, in taking the tincture in ſo large a menſtruum, as half a pint. The quantity was more objected to, than the medicine itſelf: and this circumſtance alone, I apprehended, occaſioned it to be rejected more frequently, than it would have been, had the medicine been compriſed in a much leſs compaſs. This was often the caſe; and this circumſtance, with the farther view of retaining, as much as poſſible, the volatile part of the medicine,

medicine, determined me to take the firſt opportunity, after I had left the Houſe, of reducing the quantity of the diluent, and to make the whole as compact as poſſible.

After gradual and repeated experiments, I had the happineſs to find, that the watery part might, with great eaſe and ſafety, be leſſened more than one half: and for many years paſt, have never directed the medicine in more than three ounces of barley, or common water, which is ſix times the quantity of the medicine itſelf, but frequently in leſs than even that quantity.

By the teſtimony referred to above, it alſo appears, that this medicine is now given, in Guy's Hoſpital, in about a gill.

The following Caſes will ſhew ſatisfactorily, that there are perſons, and not a few, who can take it, with great facility, much leſs diluted.

———, ſervant in a gentleman's family in town, of a tall, thin, leucophlegmatic habit, had, for ſome days before I ſaw her, a violent Rheumatic pain,

(ſo it was called) affecting more eſpecially one ſide of her face; ſo that ſhe had little eaſe in the day, and in the night the anguiſh was intolerable. She was coſtive, and complained, moreover, of great pain in her ſtomach.

A full table-ſpoonful of the Tincture (generally ſuppoſed to be half an ounce) was given her, in the preſence of the family, in four ſpoonfuls of common water; which ſhe took without any difficulty, and which ſoon eaſed, a good deal, the pain at her ſtomach.

In half an hour's time the medicine was repeated, exactly in the ſame way; which, in a few hours, intirely removed the pain in her ſtomach, and not long after the Rheumatic pain in her face alſo.—One in the family, ſeeing how it ſucceeded, took the medicine on her own accord, juſt as above, and cured herſelf of the ſame complaint in a very few hours.

A lady, whom no one could ſuſpect of accuſtoming herſelf to cordials, or hot liquors,

quors, complained of univerſal coldneſs, more eſpecially at her ſtomach, and alſo of an acute pain in her gums, and one ſide of her face. She was coſtive, and the circulation appeared much too languid.

The medicine was given exactly as in the laſt Caſe. On taking the firſt quantity, ſhe perceived no warmth at her ſtomach. All the warmth ſhe experienced was in her mouth, as ſhe expreſſed it. On giving a ſecond doſe, an hour afterwards, ſhe felt a genial warmth univerſally; and paſſed the night much more free from pain. Not willing however to reſt the cure on this medicine alone, the Bark was directed; and in a day or two all her complaints ceaſed.

Theſe inſtances may ſuffice, ſhould they anſwer no other purpoſe, to convince us, that the medicine is a perfectly ſafe one, when the Caſes are proper, even when diluted to no greater degree. But ſhould any one contend here for the neceſſity of greater dilution, it would ſeem an immaterial circumſtance, whether this be done at the

the very inſtant of taking the medicine, or at proper intervals afterwards.

After what hath been advanced above, it is ſomething ſurpriſing, that a medicine, which hath been in daily uſe for a great number of years in one, (and in one only) of our public Hoſpitals, ſhould on no occaſion have been preſcribed by the phyſicians of that houſe, in what is called their *private* practice. No inſtance, at leaſt, could be produced, of its having been directed abroad, after a moſt diligent ſearch through the town, in the year 1772. Nay, ſome of the oldeſt Apothecaries, and of the moſt extenſive practice, had acknowledged, they could not remember (d) ever

(d) It is but juſtice to Dr. BROCKLESBY, to add, that, (unimpreſſed by the words of his predeceſſor in the army) "He gave daily, in the military hoſpitals, "the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. from half an ounce to ſix "drachms, diluted in two quarts of well-boiled gruel, "in the *cold* Rheumatiſm." And I have been credibly informed, he hath, on ſome occaſions, done the ſame *out* of the hoſpitals. But let it be obſerved here, that I have given four times that quantity in the ſame ſpace of time, as will appear in ſome of the ſubſequent Caſes.

Dr. MEAD,

ever to have ſeen or heard of its having been ſo preſcribed.

The following Caſes will not only ſhew to what degree this medicine may, on ſome occaſions, be given, and how little diluted (e), but diſcloſe alſo what was poſſibly

Dr. MEAD, in his tract on *Pains in the Joints*, after recommending dulcified Mercury, *&c.* adds, "In the "intermediate days of purging, the proper medicines "are ſuch as are diuretic and laxative at the ſame time. "Of this claſs, I give the *preference* to the Volatile "Tincture of Gum-Guaiacum, or the Balſam of "Guaiacum."

(e) I may mention here, that there ſeems to be no occaſion to reduce the diluent any farther. From two to three ounces, ſeems to be the proper medium, for ſuch ſubjects, at leaſt, as have appeared in the Caſes themſelves. It may be taken in this way without difficulty, is eaſieſt retained in the ſtomach, and ſeems in general, ſufficiently compact. But it ought to be obſerved farther, that in the variety of Caſes which muſt occur, circumſtances will greatly vary, and no reſtriction ought to be laid upon the diſcretion of the phyſician.

For at the moment I am writing, there is a lady, an arthritic patient of mine, whoſe delicate and irritable

ſibly little expected, but what is unqueſtionably

table conſtitution will not even bear a ſingle drachm of the medicine under conſideration, as I am well aſſured, without exciting the greateſt ruffle and commotion. But I ſay this in perfect reliance on the information; not daring, after the account I had received, to give it even in the ſmalleſt quantity. But this ſhould form no reaſonable objection to the medicine; for the bark itſelf cannot always be taken in intermittents. I mean not, however, to draw a compariſon betwixt the two medicines. All I would ſuggeſt, is, that an allowance muſt be made for that peculiarity of conſtitution, which may be met with in particular perſons. — After I had, by other means, brought the ſwelling, which had ſeized her right hand, to its full maturity, and it became red and inflamed, being then in the moſt exquiſite pain, ſeven ounces of blood were taken away; which had exactly the ſame appearance as in the pleuriſy, or acute Rheumatiſm, though no fever was preſent. This gave the patient conſiderable, and almoſt immediate relief. The Sal. Volatile was then recommended, being almoſt the only medicine ſhe could bear, as a cordial, and with the farther view of reſolving (if that indeed be poſſible) the ſizy diſpoſition of the fluids. The bark, and the cold bath, were alſo adviſed. But whether the advice was in any reſpect followed, I have had no opportunity of knowing.

I could

queſtionably of infinitely more conſe-quence.

I could not help reflecting, however, that even in this very delicate caſe, the Gum, and the Volatiles, might have been given with advantage in a ſeparate ſtate, had time been allowed me for farther trials.

THE

THE GOUT.

AND now the reader is going to be introduced to a few Caſes in that formidable diſtemper, *the Gout*, which will probably give him ſome flattering hope, that much good may ariſe to mankind, from having increaſed the powers, and extent of this medicine, by inlarging the doſe, making it more compact, and by more frequent repetitions of it.

CASE I.

MR. SAMUEL TAYLOR, of Clapton, aged 62, of a florid complexion, and thin habit of body, had enjoyed a good ſtate of health, till the year 1760,

1760, when he was inſtantly ſtruck with a palſey, which affected all the right ſide; but from which he, in a good meaſure, recovered ſpeedily, by the uſual treatment, except that he was not bled; a very common, but oftentimes an injudicious practice, in paralytic caſes. His right leg and thigh continued weak and feeble many years afterwards.

In March 1772, he was as ſuddenly attacked with a violent pain at his ſtomach; for the removal of which, whatever attempts had been made, all proved unſucceſsful.

On the 12th, I found him in the moſt exquiſite torture; free, indeed, from all fever, and, notwithſtanding the greatneſs of his pain, his pulſe was perfectly calm and regular. Though he had formerly been a *bon vivant*, there was no reaſon however to ſuſpect, that his pains were occaſioned by any injury done to any of the viſcera. It was moſt probable, that his preſent diſorder was of a gouty nature, having formerly had ſlight fits thereof.

His

His knees were in great pain, and much ſwelled afterwards.

Being very coſtive, an opening tincture with warm cordial draughts, were directed for him.

On the 14th, complaining with ſome degree of ſeverity, that what was preſcribed, did by no means aſſuage his pains, or reach his caſe, as he expreſſed it; three drachms of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. were directed, in two ounces and an half of barley-water, night and morning. This eaſed his pains ſomething; but ſtill inſiſting that it was not ſtrong enough, on the 15th, half an ounce of the Tincture was ordered, diluted in the ſame manner. From this he found conſiderable relief, and perſiſted in the uſe of it till the 21ſt; when his pain returning in a ſlight degree he grew ſomewhat impatient, and earneſtly requeſted, that the draughts might be made ſtronger. Finding they had no other tendency, than juſt to keep his body moderately open, his requeſt was complied with; and the half ounce directed in two ounces of common

water

water every ſix hours, and continued three days ſucceſſively. This never gave him more than three motions (f) in twenty-four hours, intirely removed the pain in his ſtomach, abated both the pain and ſwelling in his knees, and had no inconſiderable good effect on his paralytic limbs. He never had the leaſt return of the diſorder at his ſtomach, from that day to this; and was ſo far from complaining of the draught being too ſtrong, that he fre-

(f) Thoſe who are accuſtomed to prepare this Tincture, will find, that ſometimes near a fourth part of the Gum remains undiſſolved, unleſs carefully choſen; and if to this conſideration we add, what is frequently loſt by ſtanding and otherwiſe, it is not probable, that, one time with another, much more than 25 gr. are contained in half an ounce of the Tincture.

So I thought, when this note was added to the firſt edition of this pamphlet. Since that time, ſeveral trials have convinced me, that much more of the Gum is, and remaineth diſſolved, than I at that time imagined. Nay, I now believe, that the greateſt part, if not the whole, is diſſolved—when the Gum is good, and the Spirit freſh and good alſo.

A Diſpenſatory writer of ſome note calls this Tincture "an elegant one" and adds, "the Volatile Spirit ex-"cellently diſſolving the Gum."

quently requeſted to have it made ſtronger; but his requeſt was not complied with.

Let it be obſerved, this is not the firſt Caſe by many (g) in which I have for ſeveral years given this medicine in the Gout, with ſuch ſucceſs, as will appear in the following Caſes. For I do confidently hope the Gout, if not curable in all caſes, may certainly admit of much mitigation

(g) By way of date, to ſhew how long I have thus treated the Gout, and how perfect a criſis is ſometimes obtained in that diſorder, I put down the two following inſtances, being the earlieſt, which, at preſent occur to my recollection; in neither of which did it ever return, though it is now above ſeventeen years ago, that the patients were affected by it. For the preſent, I barely mention their names. The firſt, Mr. Hawtings, of Rumford, who hath, from his manner of living (to uſe his own expreſſion) been *intitled* to it many times ſince; and his apothecary alſo, Mr. Froſt, who ſeeing the good effects of the medicine on his patient, cured himſelf of it, by the very ſame means; nor did I ever hear of his having any return of it. Amongſt his other encomiums on the medicine, he ſaid laughingly, it ſhould, from that time, ſtand in his books under the title of *Hauſtus Podagricus*. This laſt gentleman died lately of a dropſy; and, indeed, it is a wonder he lived ſo long, conſidering how little care he took of himſelf.

and

and relief, whatever may have been advanced to the contrary, in more recent Caſes eſpecially; nay, I am not without hopes in the more inveterate: and proper trials ſhall be made in future, even were chalky concretions ſubſiſt.

The ſafety of the medicine I warrant, if given with ſkill and phyſical judgment.

That the cure ſhall be ſo *radical* (h) and

 permanent,

(h) "It hath been already obſerved (ſaith Dr. CULLEN) that the Gout may be *entirely* prevented by "conſtant bodily exerciſe, and by a low diet."—This is a very confident way of ſpeaking, and the opinion being founded on reaſoning *a priori*, is altogether precarious and uncertain. It is, however, a tolerably innocent opinion, may do good, and, in the general, can do no harm. Moderate exerciſe of the body, with temperate diet, is no doubt greatly conducive towards the prevention of the Gout. And ſo it is of the dropſy, aſthma, conſumption, fever, and almoſt every diſorder that can be named.

But when the Profeſſor in other places ſuggeſts to his pupils his opinion "of the impoſſibility of a cure of the "Gout by medicine, that there is no other means of "*radically* curing it, but by conſtant bodily labour and "abſtinence from animal food, that it would have been "happy for gouty perſons, if this opinion had been im-

"plicitly

permanent, that the diſorder will never return, I cannot warrant. That cannot be done

" plicitly received by them, and that the common prac-
" tice of committing them to *patience* and *flannel alone*,
" is eſtabliſhed on the beſt foundation;" I own I am at a loſs to conceive the great bleſſing of ſuch doctrine to the tortured patient, or the inſtruction it conveys to his diſciples.

He ſays, indeed, " It would, perhaps, have been
" happy for gouty perſons if this opinion had been im-
" plicitly received by them, as it would have prevented
" their having been ſo often the dupes of ſelf intereſted
" pretenders."—Why, truly, if they could be perſuaded to be of the Profeſſor's opinion, it certainly would prevent their being *duped* in this way. But I ſhould apprehend that a declaration of this kind, inſtead of making converts to the opinion, will only be conſidered, by the generality of arthriticks, as an open confeſſion of the inability of thoſe who make it, to render any effectual relief. The empiric will certainly avail himſelf of it, to ſupport his ſuperior pretenſions to the knowledge of the properties of medicine, and to countenance his contempt of all regular practice.—In ſhort, nothing more is wanting to fill up the meaſure of empiriciſm.—Have we not found out a remedy for the Gout?—Have we no hopes that a medicine *may* be found to afford effectual relief in the Gout?—Convince your patients then, if you can, that you are poſſeſſed of a remedy for the ſtone, conſumption, dropſy, or aſthma.

But you will ſay, perhaps, we ſpeak of a *radical* cure for

done in any other diſorder whatſoever. But before any great and conſiderable

 im-

for the Gout. And have you the confidence to pretend to a radical cure of any of the above diſorders?

The truth is, this expreſſion itſelf of a *radical* cure, is uſed too ambiguouſly, and with no adequate idea affixed to it.—When we are told, that the Gout is not to be cured by any medicines whatſoever *radically*, are we to underſtand that no medicines are ſufficient to extirpate it out of the conſtitution, ſo as that we may be as fully aſſured of its not returning, as we are that the ſmall-pox and meaſles, once cured, will not return?—If ſo, they ſhould have informed us, that this is their preciſe meaning. For, in that caſe, the aſſertion would not admit of being controverted.

This, however, ſeems not to be their meaning, as they would hardly aſſert the ſame of any of the above-mentioned diſorders, which, when cured, are ſtill liable to return. Do they then mean, that there is no medicine or medicines whatſoever which can give, in the Gout, as effectual relief as in the aſthma, dropſy, ſtone, conſumption, &c. tho' liable, like theſe, to return? Their aſſertion, in this caſe, is evidently untrue, and grounded only on their own experience of what relief hath been really afforded. For my own part, if I can be aſſured of the efficacy of any medicine in any diſorder whatſoever, I am ſo experimentally in the Gout, of the efficacy of the guaiacum, muſk, opium, volatiles, &c.

And

improvements in the medical art can be hoped for, ſeveral reigning prejudices, both

And this leads me to note ſomething very like an *inconſiſtency* in Dr. CULLEN's obſervations on this ſubject. Although he inclines to think "That no medicine for "curing the Gout hath been found, but that all hi- "therto offered have been either uſeleſs or pernicious," yet, towards the latter part of his chapter on the Gout, (as if he had forgot his own aſſertion in the beginning of it) he mentions and recommends much medicinal apparatus in the Gout. Thus, to prevent paroxyſms becoming more frequent, blood-letting is directed — bleeding by leeches as ſtill more proper. — Warm-bathing and emollient poultices to moderate inflammation. Bliſtering alſo as an effectual means of relieving and diſcuſſing a paroxyſm of the Gout. Stinging with nettles is alſo mentioned. Burning with moxa or other ſubſtances. Camphire and aromatic oils.—It is true, the Doctor has always ſome cautionary drawbacks of danger attending the application of theſe. But the amount of the whole (unleſs we ſuppoſe all that is ſaid to be nugatory) is, that they may all be employed with advantage, if applied with judgment and medical diſcretion. On the abatement of paroxyſms, opiates are recommended as ſafe and advantageous, eſpecially to perſons advanced in life. After the paroxyſms, for diſcuſſing the ſwelling and ſtiffneſs in the joints, the fleſh-bruſh is adviſed.—So much for the treatment of the regular Gout.

Now

both amongſt medical perſons and others, muſt be removed, to pave the way for far-

 ther

Now for the irregular. And firſt of the atonic. Cold-bath, bitters, and Peruvian bark may be employed. Iron in very large doſes, aromatics, gentle and frequent vomits, and proper laxatives; bliſtering the lower extremities may be uſeful, and iſſues as a ſupplement to the diſeaſe.

With reſpect to the retrocedent Gout, the free uſe of ſtrong wines, joined with aromatics or ardent ſpirits, even in a large doſe. In more moderate attacks, ardent ſpirits impregnated with garlic or aſſa fœtida, or a ſolution of the laſt in volatile alkali. Opiates, (mark, I beg) are *often* an *effectual* remedy, and may be joined with aromaticks, as in the elect. thebaic. or with volatile alkali and camphire. Muſk has likewiſe proved uſeful in this diſeaſe, &c. &c.

When the Gout in its retroceſſion affects the lungs, it is to be *cured*, we are told, by opiates, by antipaſmodics and bliſtering. When it affects the head, producing pain, apoplexy, virtigo or palſey, bliſtering the head, and in ſome caſes the extremities, together with aromatics and the volatile alkali may be uſed.

In the *miſplaced* Gout, blood-letting and ſuch other remedies as would be proper in an idiopathic inflammation of the ſame parts. —

To this account, I will juſt add, that even with reſpect to *preventing* the Gout, the Doctor recommends not only as innocent and uſeful, but even as neceſſary, the

ther ſucceſs; and ſome of them are of ſuch a nature, that I chooſe not to mention them in this place.

That I may not appear too ſanguine in thoſe confidential hopes which I have expreſſed, give me leave to quote a memorable paſſage, from the moſt capital Writer that later ages have produced—" But the " radical cure of the *Gout* is yet a ſe- " cret; nor do I know when, or by " whom, it will be diſcovered. I hope, " nevertheleſs, that I have contributed, " in ſome degree, to the good of man- " kind by this treatiſe, by faithfully

the following medicines; aloetics, rheubarb, magneſia alba, or flowers of ſulphur.—But, how needleſs ſuch a caution is upon the Doctor's hypotheſis, or with what conſiſtency it is here introduced, let the reader judge, upon comparing it with the following declaration, " I " am firmly perſuaded, that any man who early in life " will enter upon the conſtant practice of bodily exer- " ciſe, and abſtinence from animal food, will be pre- " ſerved *entirely* from the diſeaſe."

" pointing

" pointing out thoſe rocks, whereon my-
" ſelf and many others have ſplit, ſubjoin-
" ing likewiſe the beſt method of cure,
" which I have hitherto diſcovered, which
" is all I promiſe; though, after long
" conſideration, I *cannot help thinking, that*
" *ſuch a remedy will befound out hereafter*;
" and if ever this ſhould happen, it will
" *betray the ignorance of the theoriſts* (i),
" and clearly ſhew how notoriouſly they
" are miſtaken in the knowledge of the
" cauſes of diſeaſes, and in the medi-
" cines they give to cure them. We
" have

(i) So thought this great writer. Dr. DUNCAN, on the contrary, in his preface to his *Obſervations on Mercury*, uſeth the following language;—" Theory in me-
" dicine is principally deſpiſed by two ſets of practitio-
" ners, the *ignorant* and the *lazy*. The laſt are unwil-
" ling, and the firſt are unable to acquire the know-
" ledge of it; and amidſt all their boaſted contempt, it
" will be found, that they principally differ from others
" in implicitly adopting whatever opinions they firſt
" receive."

" have a plain proof of this in the *Peru-*
" *vian* bark; the beſt ſpecific in inter-
" mittents: for, how many ages had the
" moſt acute phyſicians ſpent in ſearch-
" ing into the cauſes of intermittents,
" and adapted ſuch methods of cure as
were

" receive."—But when we conſider that, of the many theories which have been ſpun out with ſuch a loſs of time, ſcarce one hath been confirmed by ſucceſs in practice, and moſt of them been found to miſlead the practitioner, we ſhall be juſtified in pronouncing theory—mere theory—in medicine at leaſt, equally dangerous with quackery itſelf; and, inſtead of having advanced, (which it ever boaſts of) to have retarded, more than any other thing, the improvement of medical knowledge. Fond of his fancies, the theoriſt, while he purſues theſe with an unremitting eagerneſs, *lazily* practices in the common routine; or, if he venture his reaſoning into practice, it is generally with ſuch a conceited confidence of their concluſiveneſs, that fact itſelf will hardly convince him of his error; nor can ill ſucceſs, and even the dictates of humanity, which are ſacrificed to his vanity, prevail upon him to alter his practice in the leaſt. Is there not more hope of the empiric, than of him?—In contraſt to the opinion of Dr. DUNCAN, as expreſſed above, I ſhall take the liberty to ſubjoin the ſentiment of one, whoſe authority, perhaps, may have more weight with him than SYDENHAM's. " To oppoſe
" mere theory—to the reſult of a long and painful ex-
" perience

" were beſt ſuited to their ſeveral theo-
" ries? But how little honour theſe me-
" thods did to the theories whereon they
" were founded, appears from a late in-
" ſtance in the practice of thoſe, who,
" aſcribing the various kinds of intermit-
" tents to the redundancy of different hu-
" mours in the body; ordinarily attempt-
" ed the cure by altering and evacuating
" theſe humours; which ſucceeded ill
" with them, as is manifeſt from their
" failure, but eſpecially from the more

" perience—is a manner of writing more fitted for diſ-
" putations in a *ſchool* of medicine, than for the in-
" ſtruction of a practical phyſician."

☞ Such are the remarks made on Dr. DUNCAN's opinion reſpecting the advantages of theory, as they ſtood in ſome former editions of my book, for which I am thought by that writer, not to have treated him *with all the lenity he could have wiſhed.* Let the reader judge. I ſhall only aſk, could Dr. DUNCAN have felt for any thing there ſaid in cenſure of the mere theoriſt in medicine, had he not taken the character to himſelf?—Nor would he have repreſented me as " employing much of that " theory which I pretend to deſpiſe," had he properly diſtinguiſhed betwixt *reaſoning* from facts, or obſervations on Caſes, and mere *theorizing*.

" ſucceſs-

" ſucceſsful uſe of the bark; by the help
" of which, if given in a proper manner,
" we commonly anſwer the end effec-
" tually, without regarding thoſe hu-
" mours, diet, or regimen; unleſs the pa-
" tient be unneceſſarily *kept in bed*, whilſt
" he is taking it; in which caſe, however,
" ſo efficacious is this medicine, that it
" ſeldom fails curing the patient, not-
" withſtanding this inconvenience of in-
" creaſing the diſeaſe by the *warmth of*
" *the bed*. In the mean time, till the
" *radical cure of the Gout be found out*,
" (which all phyſicians, and myſelf in
" particular, *ought to wiſh for*) I intreat
" the reader to receive this little treatiſe
" in a favourable manner; but if he
" ſhould not, I am ſo well acquainted
" with the tempers of mankind, that it
" will be no great diſappointment to me;
" and I know my duty ſo well, that I
" ſhall not be diſcouraged thereat." ——

Thus ſpeaks the Oracle to modern ages! brought over from ancient Greece to Great Britain, where it now utters its prophecies, and is conſulted by all the civi-

lized

lized nations in the world! and, inſpired by nature, it will continue ſpeaking to all future ages!

This paſſage, long ago, deeply impreſſed my mind. A ſpecific in the Gout! That *approbrium medicorum* for ſuch a number of ages! Could the wiſe Sydenham entertain ſo viſionary a hope? So it was. And yet he was not the wild Viſionary, or aerial Theoriſt. But perhaps he might ſpeak the wiſhes of his heart, rather than the dictates of his underſtanding, as no man ever poſſeſſed more benevolence.

The real caſe ſeems to be this, and the paſſage itſelf ſhews, that he had in his eye the Bark, that great ſpecific in intermittents; which led him to hope, that ſome providential event, or ſome experiment, might, at one time or other, bring to light a ſpecific for the Gout alſo. The diſputes among phyſicians, in his day, had well nigh diſmiſſed the Bark from the *Materia Medica*, with the ignominy of being pernicious, or uſeleſs at leaſt; and doomed it to the unworthy fate of many other

other valuable medicines, which are now ſuffering hard durance in ſome neglected corner of the apothecary's or druggiſt's ſhop. He had juſt reſcued it from this vile treatment, before he gave the finiſhing hand to his fine Treatiſe on the Gout, by exhibiting both its innocence, and its eminent medicinal qualities in his own practice, calling loudly upon the phyſicians in his time, to give it in a more free and liberal manner; for which he, and no one elſe, deſerves the title of the father of this ſpecific, except you will allow the honour of it to the man who barely peels the Bark, in the mountains of Peru. Had he not reſcued it from this intended diſgrace and oblivion, and taught its uſe, this *magnum Dei donum* had been loſt for ever.

This odious effect, however, did follow, *viz.*—While rival, and ſelfiſh phyſicians were contending about the matter, Dr. Sydenham loſt the honour of ſuch a noble improvement; and the Faculty the credit it would have done them, of coming from one of their own body. But the

the note below will gratify the curioſity (k) of ſome readers, and excite the indignation of others, who may have any regard

(k) Dr. BAKER, *in his enquiry into the Epidemic Fever*, after obſerving, that by the common method of giving medicines, in trifling and inſufficient doſes, good ones are but too often brought into diſrepute, the intention of the *phyſician* fruſtrated, and the patient's expectation diſappointed—acquaints us, that *phyſicians* ran into this error formerly, with relation to the *bark*, through an over cautiouſneſs; and that *Sydenham* was the firſt that broke through this conſtraint, and ventured to give it in large doſes. I have a letter of his (he adds) in manuſcript, now before me, wherein he ſays, "I have had but few trials, but I "am ſure, that an ounce of *bark*, given between the "two fits, cures, which the *phyſicians* in *London*, not "being pleaſed to take notice of in my book, or not "*believing* me, have given an opportunity to a fellow, "that was but an *apothecary*'s man, to go away with "all the practice on *agues*; by which he has got an "eſtate in two months, and brought great reproach on "the faculty." This letter was writ in October 1677, which falls in ſo exactly with the time of *Talbor*'s firſt appearance as a practitioner, (for we have an account of his being in France in 1679) that SYDENHAM muſt certainly allude to him; and it appears from hence, that SYDENHAM was the perſon who ſtruck out the method of giving an ounce of *bark* between the fits, inſtead

gard to the honour of the Faculty, and the general intereſt of mankind.

inſtead of a drachm or two, which was the uſual doſe before that time; which method Sir ROBERT TALBOR has generally hitherto had the credit of, and for which he was knighted by King Charles the Second.

It were to be wiſhed, for the benefit of mankind, that *phyſicians* would imitate SYDENHAM's practice more than is uſually done, in this particular; ſince there is no poſſibility of diſcovering, except by this means alone, how far the powers of medicines extend.

GEOFFROY informs us, (without the leaſt notice of our SYDENHAM) that Lewis XIV. that great patron of the uſeful, as well as the polite arts, purchaſed of Sir ROBERT TALBOR, or TALBOT, knighted by Charles the Second, his ſecret manner of giving the bark; and ordered large quantities to be bought up for the uſe of his hoſpitals. He adds farther, that he gave it not by ſcruples or drachms, "ſed ad uncias & libras aſcen-"debat."

CASE

CASE II.

JAMES HARVEY, a joiner, of Stoke Newington, aged twenty-ſeven, of an athletic conſtitution, and complexion rather pallid, was, on the 6th of January, 1773, ſeized with an acute pain in his right ancle, all on a ſudden, as he ſat by the fire ſide. He had before that enjoyed a good ſtate of health for many years, and till the very moment his ancle became affected, thought himſelf, and was thought by every one elſe, in perfect health, and had gone through his uſual labour on that day.—Before morning the pain ſhifted with great violence to the toes of the left leg, on which the ſwelling and pain of the right ancle conſiderably abated.

The 8th, he was attacked with a looſeneſs which continued two days, and reduced him very much.

The 10th, the pain flew to his left knee; and on the 12th, when he came to me, it remained there, but principally affected his left hand, which was extremely red and angry, and ſwelled to a conſiderable ſize, diſabling him from any kind of work.

His pulſe was low, weak, and rather quick, tongue white, urine turbid, high-coloured, depoſiting a conſiderable ſediment. I directed for him the Tincture, which was taken ſix nights running. On the 8th, the pain, ſwelling, and redneſs of his hand were much abated, and he was in every reſpect ſo much relieved, that he ſpoke with ſeeming confidence of being able to return ſoon to his uſual labour.

I then adviſed him to take his medicine twice a day, which he did for three days; and on the 21ſt, he thought himſelf perfectly well, and returned to his work, which he proſecuted without much impediment. Meeting with him by accident, February 6th, he informed me he had ſome ſlight returns of his complaint, which chiefly affected his right knee and ancle; and was deſirous of taking his medicine

dicine again. I adviſed rather to take an ounce of Bark leiſurely, and a ſpoonful of Spirit. Vol. Arom. at bed-time; with which he complied, and has remained well ever ſince.

CASE III.

MR. M'ENNA, a publican, in the 50th year of his age, an athletic, well-made man, of a florid complexion, whoſe ſituation in life expoſed him to live rather freely, had been ſubject to the Gout the laſt eight years. He had a ſevere attack in his feet, the ſevereſt he had ever experienced, on the 2d of May 1773. I ſaw him on the 18th; the medicine was given him that night, and the next morning. In the evening (though before unable to move from his ſeat) he met me with expreſſions full of gratitude and aſtoniſhment; ſaying, that he was ſo far from expecting a cure for the Gout, that

he ſcarce believed he ſhould have found even any relief.—He was requeſted to continue his medicine twice, or once a day, at leaſt, for a little time, and then to follow it with the bark and the Cold-bath. But whether any part of the advice was complied with, I have had no opportunity of learning from himſelf, but have lately been credibly informed, he is in perfect health, and hath not had the leaſt return of his diſorder.

CASE IV.

WILLIAM GOODMAN, in Shoreditch pariſh, aged 70; a remarkably ſtout, robuſt man, of a full habit, had been afflicted with the Gout above 25 years. He had had it (I take the account from his own mouth) in every part of his body, except his ſhoulders; in his head, ſtomach, toes, feet, knees, and hands. His

His feet and hands were ſwelled to ſo great a degree, as to be ready to burſt; which diſabled him from feeding, or turning himſelf in bed. He hath a thouſand times wiſhed for death; and on many occaſions his caſe hath been concluded as deſperate, and his death near at hand.

Early in the ſpring 1773, I found him unable to ſtir from his ſeat, or to do the moſt ordinary action without aſſiſtance. He took the medicine twice a day, for four days, juſt in the way I have ſo often related; and to his own amazement, and that of his acquaintance, went abroad after his uſual occupation in a week's time; and I left him in as perfect health, and as free from any infirmity, as a man of ſeventy could be expected to be. Nor was the medicine attended with the leaſt inconvenience in any reſpect.

I could have wiſhed to have followed it with the Bark, if not with the Cold-bath. But certain ſtrong prejudices, that the diſorder was incurable, and that no mitigation, even of his preſent pain, could be hoped for, as they had well nigh precluded

any farther attempts to remove his complaints, ſo they determined him, as they have done many others, to uſe his own expreſſion, to *reſt* while he was *well*. And perhaps, conſidering his time of life, he was in the right.

CASE V.

RICHARD FOX, of Stoke Newington, a glazier and painter, aged thirty-three, of middle ſtature, and thin habit, had been afflicted with the Gout from nine years of age. His laſt attack was about the middle of May 1773, when a violent pain ſeized the great toe of his left foot, which in a little time ran through his foot, and up his leg to his knee, and continued in that limb for ſeveral days and nights, ſo that he could get no reſt. Afterwards it began to ſwell to a violent degree, and grew red and fiery, which gave him ſome

ſome eaſe, but left that limb perfectly uſeleſs. From thence it removed into his other foot and leg, attended with partly the ſame effect; ſo that he was now totally diſabled from walking. The pain, after ſome time, removed from his feet and legs into his hands and arms, and took the uſe of them away likewiſe.

In this ſituation he applied to his apothecary, who informed him his complaint was the Gout; and beſides the medicines he thought it adviſeable to give him, recommended Brandy and water, and Madeira, for his common drink. His directions were punctually complied with for ſome weeks. The patient finding no benefit, and growing daily worſe and worſe, makes a warm appeal to his apothecary; informing him very plainly, that if he could procure him no farther relief, it was impoſſible he could live under ſo deſperate a diſorder; for the pain now attacked his ſtomach, nor could he lie down in bed without great difficulty, owing to a tightneſs, or catching in his breaſt, as he expreſſed himſelf. His legs alſo loſt their

former redneſs, and became remarkably ſwollen, ſhining, and dropſical. And the poor man was conſigned over to Patience and to Flannel.

In theſe deplorable circumſtances, he was brought to me, ſupported by his friends. A more deplorable Caſe cannot fall to the lot of any man.

It ſeems unneceſſary to add any thing farther, in relation to his Caſe; except, that his pulſe was quick, but weak and low,—thirſt conſiderable,—general habit coſtively inclined; and, laſtly, delibitating night-ſweats had of late purſued him.

In Caſes complicated like this, it is oftentimes a difficulty, at what point to aſſail the enemy. We had here the (l) Gout evidently complicated with the Dropſy and Aſthma. But a new difficulty aroſe. It was by no means improbable, that the deleterious quality of the lead (the patient having for many years wrought in paint)

(l) Multis in hydropicum morbum podagra conceſſit; quandoque vero in aſthma: horum vero ſucceſſio inevitabilis eſt.

might,

might, if not lay the foundation, at leaſt, aggravate part of the complaints.

But, ſuppoſing that to be the caſe, (and this was a circumſtance highly deſerving of attention) it was an additional motive for giving the medicine, not knowing any thing of equal(m) efficacy in paralytic Caſes, evidently ariſing from this cauſe. The Tincture,

(m) Thus I had expreſſed myſelf with reſpect to the virtues of the *Tinctura Guaiacina Volatilis*, in diſorders ariſing from the effects of lead, in the firſt edition of my Caſes, publiſhed in 1773, and without the leaſt variation on that head in the ſucceeding editions. Dr. MOTHERBY, the compiler of a Medical Dictionary, publiſhed in 1775, under the article *Guaiacum*, hath repreſented this matter in the following manner; "Dr. DAWSON fre- "quently directs this tincture with great advantage, "in Rheumatic and Arthritic complaints, in which "Caſes, and againſt Palſies from *lead*, he extols it "as *almoſt a ſpecific*." — Now, Dr. MOTHERBY's manner of expreſſing himſelf, may lead his readers into an opinion, I would not wiſh them to form of my judgment, with reſpect to the effects of this medicine, and which my own words are far from implying. I moſt willingly, however, acquit him of any intention to miſrepreſent; guardedly as I thought I had expreſſed myſelf on this head; nay, had been full and explicit to the contrary, either in Gouty or Rheumatic caſes; having

Tincture, therefore, was given him in full quantity,

ving in one place ſaid—" This advice will be neceſſary, " unleſs we could aſſure the world that we had under " our management a *ſpecific* for this diſorder. But to " this *ultimatum* of our wiſhes we are not yet arri- " ved."—Again—" But I repeat it, that we do not " mean to run a compariſon betwixt the Bark and the " Guaiacum, or that we may place the ſame confidence " in the one as in the other, in the diſeaſes to which " they are reſpectively applied, but rather to expreſs " the *contrary*, in order to excite a proper degree of " caution in the uſe of the medicine, and a due atten- " tion to varying circumſtances, &c. &c.—

Now doth this look like " *extolling* this tincture as " almoſt a *ſpecific*" in Gouty or Rheumatic caſes ? — Far otherwiſe.

On no better ground is this ſaid of " Palſies from " lead," as the reader will judge for himſelf from my own words, " not knowing any thing of equal effi- " cacy," being all the encomium I have paſſed upon the medicine in any part of the book, if indeed this may be called an encomium. Nor is there any farther reference to the ſubject, except in the Caſe immediately ſucceeding, where mention is made of a perſon who formerly dealt in paint, and had been accuſtomed to grinding colours.

But if it ſhould appear, that I have expreſſed myſelf too ſtrongly, and that I have been blameable in this reſpect, I have the ſatisfaction, at leaſt, to find myſelf in good company. For Dr. FOTHERGILL, in the fifth vol.

quantity, in the preſence of his friends, which

vol. of the Medical Obſervations and Inquiries, publiſhed afterwards in 1776, confirms what I had advanced, and almoſt in the ſame words. "I know of nothing, "ſaith he, that ſo effectually contributes to reſtore the "uſe of the limbs, when impaired by theſe cauſes, "[noxious particles of mineral poiſons], as the liberal "and conſtant uſe of the *Tinctura Guaiacina Volatilis*," —But doth this amount to "extolling the tincture as "almoſt a ſpecific?"—I dare ſay no ſuch thing was meant. In Caſes of ſuch obſtinacy, as well as in Gouty and Rheumatic caſes, both he and I, and all phyſicians are wiſhing for, and ſeeking after ſomething of ſtill greater efficacy; ſomething on which we may rely with greater ſecurity. Dr. FOTHERGILL adds, "It may be given — with a little common ſugar or "honey, and then diluted with any weaker mucilagi-"nous liquor, as thin gruel or barley water, or marſh-"mallow tea."—So it may, and in divers other ways. But I repeat here, that when it can be taken in common water alone (and there are not a few who can take it thus) as it is the moſt ſimple, ſo it is the moſt efficacious way of taking it.

Permit me to add here, that as Dr. MOTHERBY is not afraid to follow me in extending the uſual inſignificant doſe of a tea ſpoonful or a drachm, to a table ſpoonful or half an ounce, ſo he might have added with perfect ſecurity, and, in ſome Caſes, from half an ounce to —an ounce or more, as will appear from ſeveral paſſages in this pamphlet.

which he was desired to take leisurely. This gave him great relief at his stomach before the morning; and it was continued through the whole of his illness, at proper intervals, in the quantity of two drachms only, with a view of keeping the disorder at the extremities, and thus finally expelling it out of the habit. Cordial Confection and Volatiles, were directed at intervals, and his strength supported by generous diet. Blisters were applied; first, betwixt his shoulders, afterwards to his legs, and one on his left breast, the pain fixing there with great violence. By these means he grew better, though slowly; is now, and has been for many months, perfectly well.

Possibly, in the course of the cure, I might direct him a Lac. Ammon. mixture, with Oxymel and Volatiles; and, towards the latter end of the disorder, a decoction of the Bark with Confection, as my common way is; but whether I did or not, I cannot now tell, as in this Case I write from memory only.

CASE

CASE VI.

WILLIAM CLARE, of Stoke Newington, aged 39, of a pallid complexion, thin, ſpare habit, and low ſtature, formerly dealt in paint; and in the year 1766, was firſt attacked with a fit, which lay in his bowels. I take this account from himſelf. By the aſſiſtance which was immediately procured him, the pain, which firſt ſeized his bowels, was, in no long time, tranſlated to his legs. In about a month after, he had another attack, and was then adviſed to quit grinding colours, and to follow the farming buſineſs.

In half a year's time he was attacked again in his ancles, and hath had it ever ſince twice a year; ſometimes in the ſpring, ſometimes in the ſummer.

His laſt attack was about the middle of November 1773. On the 1ſt of December

I was ſent for, and found him confined to his bed, and unable to ſtir almoſt a ſingle limb, and in intolerable anguiſh. His wriſts and knees, as well as his ancles, now ſwelled exceedingly, which they had never done on any former occaſion. An acute pain alſo affected his right groin. The ſwellings were not red and inflamed, but gloſſy and ſhining. His pulſe was quick,—tongue white,—thirſt conſiderable,—urine high-coloured, thick, and depoſited a lateritious ſediment. He was, moreover generally coſtive; but, on the day I ſaw him, had two ſtools; on which account, after taking away ſeven ounces of blood, which had exactly the ſame appearance as in the Pleuriſy or acute Rheumatiſm, gutt. xii. Tinct. Thebaic. were added to the Guaiacum-draught that night, and repeated twice in the ſame way the next day. On the 3d he had two motions, and nothing was given him on that day. The fourth day, the draught was ordered to be taken every night only, and without the opiate. But he found himſelf ſo well, it was taken but once.

He

He walked abroad the next day, and has followed his uſual occupation ever ſince, in perfect freedom from all his complaints.

I have, in the ſtrongeſt manner, recommended to him the Cold-bath; and can with the ſtricteſt truth affirm, that in the great variety of Gouty and Rheumatic caſes, which have come before me, I never ſaw the leaſt inconvenience from it; but, on the contrary, the greateſt benefit. Nothing will ſo effectually prevent a relapſe in either caſe, if they are to be conſidered as at all different. It is almoſt as much to be depended upon, as the Bark itſelf; and greatly to be lamented, that a moſt groundleſs prejudice too frequently obſtructs its uſe in the intervals of gouty complaints.

For ſome time paſt he hath complied with my advice, and with ſuch manifeſt advantage, as induces him to make uſe of the Bath, even in very ſevere weather.

CASE VII.

———, aged twenty, always active and temperate, had enjoyed a good ſtate of health, till the latter end of the ſummer 1772, when ſhe was ſuddenly ſeized with an acute pain in one foot, and the other was in a little time affected in the ſame way. Both ſwelled greatly, and were inflamed.

I ſaw her on the 4th day after the attack, when the family appeared almoſt as anxious to be ſatisfied about the nature of the diſorder, whether it was Gout or Rheumatiſm, as about the event. After acquainting them, that the complaint was moſt certainly, what would generally be accounted a true Gout, they explained to me the cauſe of their anxiety, *viz.* their fears, leſt the patient ſhould become as great a ſufferer by this cruel malady, as her parents and ſome of her relations had been.

This

This circumſtance is barely mentioned, as rendering the Caſe leſs equivocal, if the Gout be indeed hereditary.

A repeated enumeration of particulars which ſeldom vary, and which as ſeldom convey much uſeful information, owing to our preſent imperfect knowledge of the nature or tendency of ſuch appearances, may ſeem ſuperfluous. I ſhall content myſelf therefore, in this inſtance, with ſaying, that on taking the Tincture twice a day, the patient recovered intirely in about a week or ten days without experiencing even that debility in the parts, ſo common a conſequence of this diſorder. A great itching enſued, and the ſkin peeled off.

This caſe was omitted on a former occaſion, as it happened at ſome diſtance, and I had not time then to inquire into the ſtate of my patient, whom I ſaw but once. While theſe ſheets were at the preſs, I had the pleaſure to receive certain information that the patient is now in perfect health, nor hath ever had the leaſt return of her complaint.

The following Letter, and the Caſe accompanying it, were tranſmitted to me in ſo obliging a manner, by Mr. Wilſon, ſurgeon, in Alnwick, that I readily take this opportunity of laying them before the Public.

SIR,

UPON reading your Book of Caſes on the acute Rheumatiſm and the Gout, which lately fell into my hands, I was determined to make trial of your method the firſt opportunity.

The enſuing Caſe of a gentleman in the Gout, was ſo ſevere, and the effect of the medicine ſo ſuddenly beneficial, that I hope an account of it will not be unacceptable.

I am,

SIR,

Your moſt humble ſervant,

JOHN WILSON.

Alnwick,
Aug. 24th, 1774.

CASE

CASE VIII.

A Gentleman betwixt fifty and ſixty years of age, applied for my advice. He had been afflicted with the Gout in his feet, and at times in his ſtomach, for ſeveral years. But from February laſt, had ſcarce been tolerably eaſy four days together, in his ſtomach. He was naturally a ſtout man, of a full habit, and his face was of a deep purple hue: but his conſtitution was much impaired by the Gout; which hath rendered him ſo ill frequently, that he was not expected to live many hours, the pain being ſo ſevere in his ſtomach, attended with ſickneſs, coldneſs and ſhiverings all over his body. He continued in this way from February laſt; at times indeed, tolerably eaſy, but never without ſome pain in his ſtomach, and which frequently became violent.

He applied to me June 25th, 1774, when extremely ill in his ſtomach. He had been bled that day. I did not ſee the blood, but was informed it was ſizy, and he was alſo coſtive.

I directed two draughts for him, with half an ounce Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. in each, one to be taken that evening, the other the next morning. The firſt gave him full and immediate relief in his ſtomach, and cauſed a free ſweat and diſcharge by urine. The ſecond doſe procured a looſe ſtool or two; and the next day his feet were pained. He hath told me ſince, that the firſt doſe made him perfectly well. The medicine was continued twice a day for three days only, when being free from pain in his feet alſo, he left it off.

On the 25th of July, his complaint in his ſtomach returned, for which he took two doſes of his medicine, which had the deſired effect immediately.

He is now and then ſenſible of a ſlight uneaſineſs in his ſtomach; but it is ſo very ſlight, that he takes no medicine for it. And that return of his complaint, for which

which he took two doſes of the medicine, was owing to an error in diet (n).

(n) The bare mention of the word Diet, one would think ſufficient to excite in the Valetudinarian the diſagreeable remembrance of the unmerciful manner in which he hath been reſtricted, in this reſpect, by Dr. CADOGAN's vague obſervations, and unwarranted aſſertions of the neceſſity, not of *temperance*, (this would have been readily allowed the Doctor) but of mere abſtinence from particular kinds of food. A ſufficient anſwer, however, to all that hath been advanced by him on that head, will be found in the following ſentences of a certain writer. "The variety, and even contrariety of "circumſtances obſerved of Gouty caſes, make it ap-"parent, that no kind of diet can be proper in all "Caſes, either in the fit, or out of it: that one "perſon may require a temperate, [abſtemious] ano-"ther, a rich, ſtrengthening, cordial one."

"But to go farther, a mode of diet, and many kinds "of food, which agree with one man, diſagree with a-"nother. A kind of food, reputed hard of digeſtion, "ſhall ſit lighter on the ſtomach, and agree better with "an Invalid, than another kind which is thought lighter "and eaſier to be digeſted. Some people labouring under "the Gout, have lived on high ſeaſoned food; others "have never taſted any thing but the moſt ſimple ali-"ments: and in a country where the Gout prevails more "than in any other, the inhabitants live almoſt intirely "on a vegetable diet. Mankind in a ſtate of nature, "and ſtrangers to culinary arts, are found to live healthy "either on fleſh, vegetables, or fiſh, alone. The more

" civilized nations, among whom the Gout prevails, " differ widely in their diet: yet under that diverſity of " diſhes, men, while they keep within the bounds of " temperance, are healthy and well."

" Theſe obſervations — are ſufficient to ſhew, that " reaſoning on the property of alimentary ſubſtances, " like reaſoning on the properties of medicines, from " experiments made on them before they enter the " body, is precarious and deluſive. But if with theſe " obſervations it be farther conſidered, that in laying " down a regimen of diet for a patient, his accuſtomed " food and exerciſe, the courſe of medicine he is upon, " and many other circumſtances which differ in diffe- " rent people, are to be attended to, it will not only " authorize one to ſuſpect, that the opinions which " have been advanced of this or that kind of food, " producing or preventing the Gout, and the rules of " diet directed to be obſerved in all Caſes, are more " plauſible than juſt; but it will alſo incline one to " think, that ſome latitude may be ſafely allowed in " thoſe articles of food, which are known by expe- " rience, to agree with the patient, provided he be " but temperate in the quantity."— So much for Dr. CADOGAN's doctrine, of abſtinence, even from the common *condiments* in our daily aliment.

Dr. CULLEN contends much for the neceſſity of abſtinence from all *animal* food; nay, hath ſo great a confidence in this, as to be " firmly perſuaded, that " any man who early in life will enter upon the con- " ſtant practice of bodily labour, and of abſtinence " from animal food, will be preſerved *intirely* from the " diſeaſe." Is not this aſtoniſhing from one, who

ſuppoſes

ſuppoſes the Gout "to be a diſeaſe *generally* heredi-
"tary, and *very often* to depend upon *original confor-*
"*mation?*" What vegetables (ſhould we travel in ſearch of them from the furtheſt Indies, to the remoteſt parts of Caledonia) are to be found with properties adequate to the effect of curing the Gout; that is, on this hypotheſis, of *reforming* the original ſtructure and conformation of the body? Much leſs can we hope for ſuch an effect, from the uſe of common eſculents, the properties of which are univerſally acknowledged to be of a mild nature, and conſequently of leſs powerful operation. — But the following note, from the above quoted writer, will ſerve to ſhew, what regard is due to the Profeſſor's opinion, and to all ſuch reaſonings and reſtrictions on the article of diet, *a priori*.

"PROSPER ALPINUS, a phyſician highly celebrated
"by the great BOERHAAVE, reſided ſome years in
"Ægypt. He gives an account, that the Ægyptians
"were a chearful people, and lived to a great age.
"They were averſe to a variety of food, and gene-
"rally drank water. Rice, bread, peas, milk, ſome eſ-
"culent herbs and roots, dates, plantains, figs, apricots,
"cucumbers, melons, peaches, grapes, oranges, lemons,
"citrons and pomegranates, conſtituted the bulk of
"their diet. They eat little meat, and that, except-
"ing among the poor, was generally mutton or fowls.
"He mentions alſo, that the Gout was no where ſo
"common as amongſt thoſe people; and that pains
"in the joints generally prevailed, attacking all ſorts
"of people without diſtinction. *Neque continue arth-*
"*ritici quam plurimi homines, quales ibi exiſtunt, repe-*
"*riuntur.*—*Frequentiſſimi articulorum dolores continue*
"*ſparſim per urbem vagantur, ac mulieres, eunuchos, &*

" *omnes abſque diſcrimine invadunt & affligunt.*"—He likewiſe obſerved, " that they were very often afflicted " with the ſtone, and with ulcers in the kidneys."

ALPIN. de Medecin. Egypt.

I ſhall conclude this note in the following memorable words of Sir WILLIAM TEMPLE, " That which I call " *temperance*, ſays he, and reckon ſo neceſſary in all " attempts and methods of curing the Gout, is a re- " gular and ſimple diet, limited by every man's expe- " rience of his own eaſy digeſtion, and thereby propor- " tioning, as near as well can be, the daily repairs, " to the daily decays of our waſting bodies, &c."——

Should any one be deſirous to ſee more on the ſubject of diet, I refer him, for the preſent, to a ſmall tract by Dr. FALCONER, which contains much common ſenſe, (the very beſt of phyſic) as well as medical knowledge.

END OF THE CASES,
To the Firſt and Second EDITION, &c.

REFLECTIONS.

REFLECTIONS.

THESE few Caſes, which I have now laid before the world, are all that have occurred to me, within the limits of that time, to which I have confined myſelf. Had they been more, the reader ſhould have had more. At preſent, it ſeems needleſs to trouble the Public with any obſervations upon them. They have ſeen the operation of this particular medicine, and my general treatment, and are left to draw their own concluſions from the facts before them.

This one concluſion, at leaſt, I ſhould think, would be made by every one, whether a medical perſon, or not, That, if this medicine ſhould come into general uſe, and

and produce a proportionable effect in this torturing diſorder, the benefit to the Public would be immenſe. And theſe Caſes, few as they are, may ſerve to ſhew it's great efficacy.

Many are the obſervations, which I have made, upon the Gout, and the above Caſes have alſo afforded me ſome. But it may be prudence in a medical, as well as in other writers, to ſuppreſs ſome ideas which may occur to him, till the number and variety of the Caſes ſhall realize his hopes, and confirm his obſervations; or give him occaſion to change his ſentiments; as all depends upon fact and experience.

Only thus much we may obſerve, that the Gout, as well as the Rheumatiſm, hath its variations, and its critical ſeaſons; and that the *When* and the *How* this medicine is to be adminiſtered, is as carefully to be attended to in this, as in any other diſorder; without deſcending to a more minute detail upon the ſubject.

No prudent perſon will therefore conclude, that the phyſician's art is precluded by

by this medicine, or be ſo wanting to himſelf, as not to look out for relief from thoſe, on whoſe medical ſkill and ability he can beſt rely for advice. On the contrary, ſcarce any diſorder requires it more. For if it ſhould be (as is not improbable) nature's intention, in every fit of the Gout, to remove the malady, whether ariſing from the ſolids or the fluids, or the nervous ſyſtem, what can be more dangerous, than raſhly to *tamper* with it, and unſeaſonably obſtruct her deſigns, by an undiſtinguiſhing uſe of the medicine, till farther experiments ſhall evince, whether it be ſeaſonable at all times, and in every ſtage of this diſorder?

This advice will be neceſſary, unleſs we could aſſure the world, that we had under our management a ſpecific for this diſorder. But to this *ultimatum* of our wiſhes we have not yet arrived.

Will the Bark be called a ſpecific in intermittents? Certainly it will. But will it always anſwer, and alone? Is it never neceſſary to precede it with emetics, to accompany it with bitters, or to follow it with

with the Cold-bath? All then that can be rationally meant, when this noble medicine itſelf is called a ſpecific in intermittents, is, that it is more infallible than any other remedy, and that on which we can place general confidence. But I repeat it, that I do not mean to run a compariſon betwixt the two medicines, or that we may place the ſame confidence in the one as in the other, in the diſeaſes to which they are reſpectively applied; but rather to expreſs the contrary (o), in order to excite a proper degree of caution, in the uſe of the medicine, and a due attention to the various and multiform appearances this diſorder ſometimes puts on; without a careful attention to which, diſcredit will fall upon the beſt and moſt valuable medicines.

I

(o) Is it not ſtrange, that after this and many ſimilar declarations by way of caution, that I ſhould be conſidered by any writer, who gives but common attention to what he reads, as having recommended this medicine as "an almoſt *infallible* remedy?"—DUNCAN's *Medical Caſes*, p. 57.

I pretend not to know what the Gout is; whether it conſiſts in an affection of the ſolids, or ſome indiſpoſition of the fluids, or both. Nor is it material to tell the world, which of the various conjectural theories I am moſt inclined to adopt. And—

As to the diſtinction (p) of this diſorder into ſanguineous, bilious, and pituitous, which hath long obtained, it is to be feared, we have not ſufficient grounds, to make a diſcrimination of this nature; and the only diſtinction needful to be attended to in practice, (the diſtinction is well worthy

(p) Dr. SYDENHAM had diſtinguiſhed the Gout into *regular* and *irregular*. Not content with retaining this diſtinction, Dr. CULLEN hath farther divided the *irregular* Gout into the *atonic*, the *retrocedent*, and the *miſplaced*. And Dr. SCOT, following nearly the ſame ſyſtem, hath, more lately, divided it into the following ſtates or conditions, viz. *irregular*, *imperfect*, *regular* and *perfect*, *miſplaced* and *retrocedent*. — But what availeth all this dividing and ſubdividing á le *Sauvages*?—Where is the utility of it in practice?—inſtead of enlightening, hath it not a manifeſt tendency to confound and bewilder the practitioner, and been a great obſtacle to medical knowledge?

worthy of attention, being plain and ſimple, eaſily comprehended, and, as far I know, original alſo) is, an acute or chronic, a Gout *with*, and a Gout *without* a fever.

To ſearch into the remote cauſes of this, as well as of many other diſorders, will be but fruitleſs labour, becauſe theſe do not fall under the cognizance of our ſenſes; and conſidering the narrow limits of the human underſtanding, it would certainly be one proof of the phyſician's diſcretion, to content himſelf with obſerving the more immediate and viſible ſymptoms of the diſeaſe; its approach and attack, its progreſs, ſtate and declination, with its various indications, that he may learn to form the trueſt judgment, both as to the event of the diſorder, and the beſt method of cure.

But ſuppoſe this knowledge were to be obtained, or that I had ſome new and favourite theory to give the Public, reſpecting the remote or immediate cauſes of this diſorder, this, however, is no part of my preſent deſign.

I have proceeded upon a much humbler plan. Far from the audacious attempt of riſing to the heights of theoretic fancy, I have confined myſelf in this treatiſe to the experiments which I have made on one particular medicine, with a view of inlarging its efficacy, and extending its uſe to arthritic complaints in general; in which idea are included both the acute and chronic Rheumatiſm, the Gout *with*, and *without* a fever.

Few things have ſo much hindered the progreſs of phyſic, as the inſufficient doſes, in which this and ſome other medicines are uſually given. A deficiency in this reſpect had well nigh loſt us the Bark. And it is much to be queſtioned, whether it hath not loſt us the virtues we might have received from the Guaiacum; which was formerly conſidered as a ſpecific in a different diſorder. However, it was certainly uſed with great ſucceſs formerly, and that it is now in leſs eſtimation, may perhaps be owing to this reaſon only.

Much,

Much, it muſt be acknowledged, is left undone, and many experiments, lie open to the attempts of others on this head. Mine have hitherto been chiefly confined to the Gum in its compound ſtate with the Volatile(q). As I found them amicably joined together, I have not as yet been induced to ſeparate them; but give it as a conjectural opinion, that, beſides this compound medicine, much benefit might ariſe from the Gum in ſubſtance, the Balſam. Guaiac. Tinctures, and ſtrong decoctions of the wood itſelf, at the concluſions of the fit in the acute Rheumatiſm or Gout, and more eſpecially in tedious

(q) "When volatile alkalious ſalts, or ſpirits" (ſays Dr. HUXHAM) "are taken in large quantities, and "frequently, even by perſons in health, they bring on "feveriſh heats, hæmorrhages, ſpungy, bleeding gums, "ſtinking breath, rank urine, &c.—I have no doubt of a great variety of ſcorbutic Caſes having occurred to the Dr. ſituated in a ſea port town; but from a long and liberal uſe of Volatiles, I am perſuaded, that the Caſes and appearances above ſpecified, ought not to be aſcribed to the uſe of "Volatile alkalious Salts or "Spirits."

tedious and chronic Caſes, whether of the one or the other.

But whatever experiments of this kind may be made by the induſtry and attention of others, it will be altogether fruitleſs to apply any of the different preparations of this drug, in ſmall and inſignificant doſes; as if we were handling poiſon, or preſcribing Night-ſhade, Hemlock, or ſome of the more dangerous preparations of Mercury. On the contrary, they ought to be given liberally, ſo as to impregnate the blood and juices with them, and create an alteration in the arthritic habit.

And for our encouragement in experiments of this ſort, which are no ways hazardous, we may obſerve, that of all the vaſt and numerous tribes of medicines, which preſent themſelves to us in the *Materia Medica*, the Guaiacum ſeems to ſtep forward from the crowd, with the moſt promiſing appearance, hath the faireſt report, and the moſt creditable teſtimonials, if we have but the wiſdom to do

it juſtice in our future trials of its ſervices.

And ſuffer me in paſſing, to drop this hint, that our wiſhes and inquiries, after ſomething of ſtill farther benefit to mankind in this diſorder, are more likely to be crowned with ſucceſs, by a much freer uſe of the many ſalutary medicines, whether of the animal, vegetable, or mineral kingdom, which are in our poſſeſſion, joined to the aſſiſtance which may be derived from chemical preparations, than from any new acceſſion to the *Materia Medica*.

It is a common foible of human nature, to ſeek for that abroad, which may be found at home; and in the purſuit of ſhadowy expectations, from new diſcoveries, to loſe advantages we are already poſſeſſed of. And ill ſhall we be prepared for any new diſcoveries, if, by ſpiritleſs and inſignificant trials, the medicinal virtues of thoſe already in our hands continue to eſcape our notice.

In vain have been the labours of a Linnæus, the travels of a Banks and Solander; in

in vain ſhall we ranſack the vegetable ſyſtem in new worlds, ſince, whatever valuable diſcoveries may be brought to us, they muſt inevitably ſhare the ſame unhappy fate with former ones; for whilſt we thus conduct ourſelves, their hidden virtues will eſcape us, for want of due and ſufficient trials; ſerving only to crowd our ſhops, diſtract practitioners, or, at moſt, to enrich with exotics our gardens and hot-houſes. Our curioſity may be thus gratified, even to luxury; but medicine receive not the ſmalleſt advantage from the acquiſition.

I cannot forbear in this place, to uſe the words of an excellent writer, who, enumerating the obſtacles to the improvement of phyſic, mentions giving *ſmall* doſes as one;—"for while phyſicians" (ſays he) "have been over cautious in their "preſcriptions, they have fallen into the "inconvenience of doing the patient no "ſervice; and, to confeſs the truth, I "ſuſpect, they more generally err this "way at preſent, while they order

" drachms of plants for an infuſion, where " ounces would be more proper. On " the other hand, mountebanks, and " quacks, men of an intrepid mind, and " invincible impudence, oftentimes make " a cure, when the phyſician of probity " fails."—

This paſſage caught my attention many years ago, and hath occaſionally recurred to my mind, during my experiments on this and ſome other medicines, not of a dangerous or deleterious quality—experiments made, not with a view of finding out ſome ſpecious noſtrum to be induſtriouſly concealed from public inſpection, but to give the greater efficacy to my own preſcriptions, in the fair and regular courſe of practice. And I now preſent the above ſentiment to others, who may perhaps judge it as worthy of their attention, as many other things to be met with in medical writers.

Though I dare not preſume to have made any very near approaches to a Specific,

cific (r), or to dignify the medicine with any ſuch high title, yet, ſurely, the world will take kindly the having expreſſed good wiſhes to mankind; thinking it my duty, whenever there appears the leaſt opening towards ſo deſirable an object, to purſue it, till ſome inſurmountable obſtacle in the road, or extreme danger convince me, that ſuch labour is in vain, and warn me to proceed no farther; and, if attempts to

 make

(r) I have not dared to beſtow upon the medicine a higher appellation, than that of an *aptitude*, and *accommodation*; words borrowed from another writer, on a different occaſion—"Medicamentum materiæ expurgandæ accommodatum."—Though an ingenious author is not ſhy, in declaring his belief,—"That the "notion which has, and ſtill does prevail among ſome "phyſicians, that the doctrine of Specifics is groundleſs, "and took its riſe merely from ignorance in natural "philoſophy, is one obſtacle to the advancement of "phyſic."

He adds farther—"I cannot help thinking, that the "want of true and genuine philoſophy ought rather to "be imputed to thoſe who deny, than to thoſe who "maintain the doctrine of Specifics; and that we "might as well undertake to open all locks with one "key, as purge all humours with one medicine."

make ſo great a diſcovery, ſhould be charged ſolely to ambition; yet if theſe have proceeded upon medical principles, and been ſo cautiouſly conducted, that not the leaſt harm hath ariſen from them, in one ſingle inſtance in my practice, they cannot juſtly be intitled to a ſeverer cenſure, than what candour will ſay with regret, and envy with pleaſure;

—— *Magnis tamen excidit auſis.*

For Dr. Sydenham ſays, ſuch a diſcovery is what he himſelf did, and all phyſicians ought to wiſh for.

There is ſome merit and humanity in keeping up the hopes of mankind, and not haſtily conſigning them over to Patience and to Flannel; for, as to the firſt, the proverb writes it, a Medicine proper only for a Mad Dog. And as to the other, its ſuppoſed utility in the Gout is very queſtionable, from this circumſtance—that perſons

perſons who get abroad into the air the ſooneſt, mend the faſteſt. (s)

Nil deſperandum,

is a much better preſcription, as it will prompt us to future inquiries. And who knows what the ſeperate, or united labours of many ſenſible practitioners, when rouſed to the proper exertion of themſelves, may produce? Or, if their united art ſhould fail, who can tell what aſſiſtance we may receive, if the *Religio Medici* will permit us to take into the account the το θειον τι, which mingleth itſelf with all human affairs? or that Providence, which, by its imperceptible and myſterious workings, hath already brought to light diſcoveries of the greateſt importance, in the prevention or cure of diſorders, by means which

(s) CELSUS ſays, "The parts affected in the Gout "ſhould be expoſed freely to the *cold—Objiciendumque* "*frigori.*"

Doctor DOVER alſo adds, "Keeping the part warm "is wrong; becauſe it is *proprium caloris attrahere*, "and does, beyond doubt attract gouty matter to the "parts."

we call accidental; and which, to mortify the vanity of human ſcience, have been revealed to us by the inſtrumentality of the *ignorant* and *illiterate* (t)?

But if the wiſdom of Providence ſhould not think proper to favour us with a diſcovery, and the art and inquiries of the numerous able practitioners ſhould ſtill fail us, in the inveſtigation of a real Specific in the Gout, yet the ſupport of our hope, with the renewal of our endeavours, upon the plan, on which I have hitherto proceeded, and which I have recommended to others, muſt be followed with ſome conſiderable advantage. If the full object of our wiſhes is not to be attained, yet, ſtimulated in this inquiry by hope, it may lead us on to ſuch diſcoveries and improvements,

(t) What wonders hath not the old Grecian woman done by Inoculation, with the point of her needle, and our SUTTON with the point of his lancet?—Do we not alſo owe the firſt knowledge of the Bark to the illiterate Indian, who taught its uſe to the Spaniard?—Were not the virtues of the Guaiacum likewiſe, revealed to the Europeans by an Indian ſervant? — and, held in ſuch eſtimation, as to be ſold, ſome time after, for ſeven gold crowns a pound?

ments, as may, however, greatly reduce the ſufferings of mankind from this ſevere diſorder.

If we can abbreviate the fits, eaſe the pain, aſſiſt nature, and, along with this, ſtrengthen the habit for the future; or, if by any prophylactic method, we can prevent the frequency of the fits, and perform all this with intire ſafety, and without the danger of inducing any other complaint; every humane perſon will congratulate mankind upon ſuch advantages, though far ſhort of a complete and radical cure.

For myſelf, were I conſcious that I could reduce a tenth, twentieth, or even a much leſs proportion of human miſery, ariſing from this diſorder, my ambition, if not my wiſhes, would be fully ſatisfied; and, ſenſible of the ineſtimable benefit mankind muſt receive from ſuch a diminution of miſery, I ſhould experience that pleaſure from the reflection, which is preferable to the accumulation of the greateſt wealth or private emolument.

But, to put an end to theſe few deſultory reflections,

reflections, the whole of which, though not ſtrictly medical, are yet not foreign to this one good purpoſe, of exciting others to purſue a ſimilar method of improving the efficacy of medicines, in this and other diſorders, by giving an edge to the inſtruments we are to act with; hoping to contribute more by this means to the benefit of mankind, than by any labours of our own.

If I have appeared too ſanguine in my hope of a radical cure in the Gout (u), or ſhewn too partial an attachment to the authority of the great Sydenham in ſuch expectation, I truſt the candour of the reader will excuſe a predilection for this great author, when he reads the following quotations from Dr. Boerhaave, that celebrated phyſician of modern times,—"who

" frequently

(u) What may encourage the reader, as well as myſelf, with hope, is, this one ſtrong circumſtance, that theſe Caſes, both in the Gout and the acute Rheumatiſm, though few, are not ſelected, or picked out of numbers, but are all taken as they riſe in the courſe of my practice, and contain the *whole* from a *limited time*, viz. from March 1772, to December 1773.

" frequently peruſed him, and always " with greater eagerneſs;" aſſerting, " that " no phyſician, ſince the venerable Hip- " pocrates, has written of diſeaſes with " ſo much accuracy:" and, " lamenting " that few, if any, of the modern writers " in phyſic, have attained to the perfec- " tion of the ancients;" " I can only," adds he, " mention one great man, Thomas " Sydenham, the ornament of England, " and the Apollo of the art, whom I ne- " ver conſider, but my mind preſents me " with the genuine picture of an Hippo- " cratic phyſician, and to whom phyſic " is ſo much indebted, that all I can ſay " will fall ſhort of his merit."

The End of the REFLECTIONS, to the former Editions.

ADDITIONAL

ADDITIONAL CASES IN THE GOUT,

To SEPTEMBER 1774.

CASE I.

MR. THOMAS WRIGHT, of Hackney, aged 42, a tall ſtrong-built perſon, of a fair complexion, ſober and regular in his way of life, had formerly, at different times, ſuffered ſeverely, by what was then called the Rheumatiſm, and other acute (v) diſeaſes, and on that account loſt great quantities of blood.

In

(v) "Generally there precede many inflammatory "diſeaſes, ſuch as pleuriſies, quinſies, &c. ſays Dr. THOMPSON, "before the Gout becomes perfect and "regular."—Again, "the Gout makes its approaches "as other diſeaſes of the inflammatory kind do, and is "itſelf no other than a fever of that kind."

In the beginning of November 1773, he was ſeized with the Gout, at leaſt his friends gave the diſorder that (w) appellation, and he was the more inclined to

(w) Sir JOHN PRINGLE ſays, "The antients ſeem "to have imperfectly diſtinguiſhed the Gout from the "diſtemper now called the Rheumatiſm, by giving the "name of *arthritis* to the affection of all the joints, "whether the pains are from a rheumatic inflamma- "tion, or a gouty humour."—But do not the antients appear to have done wiſely in this reſpect? And, had the moderns made no other diſtinction, might not a more ſucceſsful treatment of the Gout, ere this, have been obtained?—For here one might reaſonably aſk, Is there not a Gouty, as well as a Rheumatic Inflammation?—And how doth the humour of the one, under *that* circumſtance, or indeed under *any* circumſtance, differ from the humour of the other?—Until this diſtinction is better aſcertained by the moderns, will it not tend to miſlead practitioners? For, agreeably to a juſt and common obſervation, which Dr. PRINGLE himſelf adopts, "Names are apt to impoſe upon the under- "ſtanding."—And, to reverſe the application of the Doctor's words, "Might it not as well be imagined," (if indeed it be allowable to give ſcope to our imaginations on this ſubject) that the moderns, now that they have got this new diſtinction, "do as often confound, "and conſequently often unſkilfully manage," the Gout and Rheumatiſm, as the antients did "the dif- "ferent

to believe it ſuch, as ſome of his family had been grievouſly afflicted by it.

For about three months from that time he had ſcarce paſſed a day, as he informed me, free from pain, either in his legs, feet, arms, or hands, though without much ſwelling. I was not ſent for till the Gout had attacked his ſtomach. He was then bled, having a ſtrong, labouring, but not a quick pulſe, and immediately took ſix drachms of the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. which procured him ſpeedy relief.

On its ſeizing his bowels not many weeks

" ferent kinds of the Arthritis?"—" A diſtinction," ſays Dr. PRINGLE, in another part of his work, " has " commonly been made between the Pleuriſy and " Peripneumony, which I likewiſe followed in the " former editions. But having ſince read the diſſec- " tions and remarks of thoſe celebrated authors, de " Haller, and Morgagni, relating to this ſubject, I am " convinced, that we ought to conſider theſe two " diſtempers as *one*."—This is ingenuous in the Dr.; and poſſibly, on re-conſidering the matter attentively, the ſame ingenuouſneſs may diſpoſe him to think more favourably of the antients, with regard to their notion of the Arthritis.

weeks after, when I was again ſent for, the medicine was followed with a like and almoſt inſtantaneous good effect. For I left him at perfect eaſe before I quitted the houſe, ſtrongly recommending to him however, as the beſt preſervative from a more ſevere viſitation, to make uſe of the bark and the cold-bath. But the family entertaining ſome prejudices againſt both, my advice was at that time diſregarded; for which he ſuffered ſeverely ſoon after: for on the 24th February 1774, he was ſeized with what himſelf, his friends, and all who ſaw him, called a fair fit of the Gout, attended with a high degree of fever, which continued for near a month; — his pulſe generally quick, full, and ſtrong. Thirty-ſix ounces of blood were taken from him on different occaſions, during his illneſs, which conſtantly appeared highly inflammatory and pleuritic—no Caſe more ſo that I ever ſaw. His urine was turbid, high-coloured, and depoſited a conſiderable quantity of brickduſt ſediment, till towards

towards the decline of the fever, when it became much more tranſparent, and of a ſtraw colour. His hands firſt, his feet afterwards, and his knees laſt of all, were full of anguiſh, prodigiouſly turgid, and red as crimſon. During all this time, the pains and ſwellings, as they abated in, or deſerted one part, flew to, and affected ſome other.

Had things remained in this ſituation, I ſhould have thought myſelf tolerably ſecure: but the diſorder on many occaſions manifeſted an obvious tendency to fall upon the more noble parts, and became truly alarming; affecting his breath (x) ſometimes,

(x) "It hath been diſputed among phyſicians," ſaith Dr. MEAD, "whether or not, a vein may be opened "when the pain in the joints is extremely ſevere. "Now, to ſettle this point, we ought never to forget, "that this pain is highly neceſſary for tumefying the "part, and therefore ought to be borne with patience. "This, however, notwithſtanding, (ſeeing it is certain, "that exceſſive heat is an obſtacle to the natural ſecre- "tions from the blood, which are neceſſary for health) "if the fever run very high, and eſpecially if it be at- "tended with difficulty of breathing, blood-letting will "not

times, at others his ſtomach or bowels.—Thrice it flew to his hip, occaſioning the moſt inſupportable torture, which wrung from him, though remarkable for his patience, expreſſions of the deepeſt anguiſh. He was generally coſtive, on which account the Tincture was given him to the quantity of four, on ſome occaſions to ſix drachms, and as it anſwered well in that

N reſpect,

" not only leſſen the pain, but likewiſe happily promote " the iſſue of the humour.—But I have very frequently " obſerved phyſicians to be too timorous with reſpect " to this evacuation, from a notion, that it would " prevent the Gouty humour from being thrown upon " the joints, &c."—

But, what wonder this timidity ſhould take place, when a much greater authority than Dr. MEAD, hath forewarned us, " Quamvis enim qui educitur ſanguis " pleuriticorum & rheumatiſmo laborantium ſanguinem " ut plurimum referat, attamen venæſectio haud minus " inſigniter in hoc morbo officere ægro, quam in " duobus prædictis prodeſſe cernitur."—On the whole then, may we not ſay in the words of Dr. Sir GEORGE BAKER, on a different occaſion, " The practice of " phyſic rarely admits of any perpetual precepts; and " he will be very apt to err, who will not, as he may " find occaſion, deviate from authorities, and follow " the dictates of his own judgment and diſcretion, as " they ariſe from the Caſe before him"?

reſpect, ſo it had the happieſt effect alſo in diverting the complaint to the extremities, whenever it ſeemed to point, and that it frequently did, inwards upon the bowels, and relieved him greatly from thoſe four belchings, and that indigeſtion of which he complained for ſome months previous to, as well as during his confinement; and all this without any augmentation, nay with a ſenſible diminution of his febrile ſymptoms, exceeding any conſequent upon the Bleedings. Debilitating ſweats broke out now and then in the more early, as well as in the more advanced ſtages of the diſeaſe.

Beſides the Tincture, ſaline draughts, with Sal. Diuret. Cordial Confec. Confect. Damoc. and other appropriate cordials, and anodynes, were given, as circumſtances ſeemed to require, and whey was directed to be drank plentifully.

I conſtrained the patient to keep out of bed as much as poſſible, and to throw aſide his flannels.

Two

Two bliſters (y) were applied to the ankles. On the removal of one of which ſome

(y) Dr. STEVENSON, in a late tract on the Gout, amidſt a variety of foreign matter ([redacted] little creditable to [redacted] the faculty in general) hath recommended bliſtering almoſt *alone* as a ſucceſsful method of treating that diſeaſe. But though this will do much, perhaps, nearly as much as any other ſingle means hitherto known, yet will it be found on many occaſions, like all other noſtrums, inadequate to the end propoſed. And this attempt to reduce the treatment of the Gout, whilſt the true nature of the diſorder remains little underſtood, to ſo *ſimple* a method, to ſuch an *oneneſs*, if I may ſo ſpeak, hath proved truly unfortunate for the miſerable ſufferers under this malady; thus cutting the ſinews of rational enquiry, and obſtructing the knowledge of a ſafe and ſucceſsful practice. For, whilſt the complaint puts on ſuch a variety of appearances, is ſometimes attended with, and at other times without a fever, attacking the bilious, ſanguineous and plethoric, as well as the nervous and debilitated, a difference of treatment muſt unavoidably take place, and the diſcriminating judgment and penetration of the phyſician becomes requiſite. — And Dr. STEVENSON might as well attempt to cure all fevers, however various in their natures, by a favourite wine, Port alone, as to cure all Gouts, however modified, by bliſters alone. And the neceſſity of taking a larger compaſs for the preſent, and being leſs confined in preſcribing, is acknowledged by

ſome blackneſs appeared, (a circumſtance I had never obſerved before in ſimilar caſes) but this was ſoon diſperſed by a common ſpirituous fomentation. A plaiſter alſo,

the Doctor in the fulleſt manner, when he tells us, that in his own Caſe, beſides bliſtering, he took Pil. Ruffi. or Pil. Aromat. and, in the Caſe of his patient, he gave warm bitters of the purgative kind, and, for a time, an opiate, adding elſewhere, that "to prevent "its conſtipating effects on the bowels, a favourite li-"quid purgative is always recommended."

I cannot omit adding here an aſſertion of the Doctor's, which may give infinite conſolation to *credulous* arthritics, but to ſuch only, viz. "That he hath not "the ſmalleſt doubt of ſucceſs in *every Caſe*, pro-"vided the period of life be not too far advan-"ced."——

Dr. HARDY too, as expreſſed above, (ſee note b. p. 4.) had appeared equally confident, "That this "formidable diſeaſe may be almoſt *annihilated*;" and we were given to expect, after exploring, as he apprehended, the primary cauſe of the Gout, "the wiſeſt and "moſt rational method of cure."—But, "after a twelve "months conſtant employment of thought on the ſub-"ject," he is at laſt become diffident, and ſtruck with the arduouſneſs of the attempt, willingly reſigns the laborious taſk to his antagoniſt, Dr. RIOLLAY, whom he not only joins, in decrying all noſtrums and ſpecifics hitherto propoſed, but would deprive the poor arthritic

alſo, of Empl. Cephal. and Epiſp. was once applied to his hip, which quickly removed the pain, by a different kind of pain (ſo the patient expreſſed himſelf) equally ſevere, but which preſently ceaſed.

It ought not to be omitted, that for ſome months before, as well as during his confinement, ſpaſms or twitchings frequently affected one or both ſides of his face.

After the total ceſſation of the fever, and the abatement of the pains and ſwellings, the uſe of the Cold-bath was preſſed on the patient in the ſtrongeſt manner; with which it was difficult to obtain a compliance.

The intire confidence, however, which the patient placed in his phyſician, induced him at laſt to follow the advice with great

arthritic of all conſolation from *Hope* itſelf, by expreſſing his firm belief, that *none*, effectual for a cure in this diſeaſe, *will ever* be diſcovered. —But, let the afflicted hope ſtill.—Time was, when we had no ſpecific for the itch, for the ague, for the lues; nay, the point of the illiterate Grecian woman's needle, proved greater than a ſpecific, and in a diſorder too far more fatal than the lues itſelf. — See his anſwer to Dr. RIOLLAY's letter.

chearfulneſs and reſolution. He accordingly went firſt into the Cold-bath, and afterwards bathed in the ſea; by which means, joined to the exerciſe of riding, and the uſe of a light infuſion of the Bark and bitters, he ſoon intirely recovered his former health and ſtrength; and now, in his own words, eats, drinks, and ſleeps, as well as ever he did in his life, and hath not, for ſeveral years, had a return of his former complaints.

Should this continue to be the caſe, and I have the moſt confidential perſuaſion that it will, by regularly purſuing the courſe recommended, it ought to encourage our hopes, for the good of mankind, that Medicine may learn in time (what ſhe is as yet ſaid to be ignorant of) not only to give relief in, but to cure the Gout.

CASE

CASE II.

A Gentlewoman, at a conſiderable diſtance from town, deſired my advice the latter end of February 1774. In conſequence of the repreſentation of her caſe, in a letter from her huſband, I directed an antimonial vomit, and the Guaiacum Tincture.

The apothecary, in a letter the week after, repreſented the Caſe as paralytic, and thus deſcribed the ſymptoms. — " An involuntary (z) ſhaking of the head

 " — unable

(z) " While the Gouty matter," ſaith Dr. QUINCY, " hangs about the nerves and fibres in general, it oc- " caſions erratick pains, twitchings, cramps, convul- " ſions, and all thoſe diſorders commonly included un- " der that general term, the vapours and hypochondria- " cal affections; and, in ſhort, all thoſe ſymptomatical " Gouts, which are often miſtaken for other diſtem- " pers, and which Dr. MUSGRAVE has ſo accurately " deſcribed in his learned treatiſe on that ſubject."

" — unable to continue it in a natural " ſtate — the chin ſometimes hanging " nearly to the right ſhoulder — then in " a dancing manner falling back to the " proper form — then as much to the " left — thus the head is variouſly diſtort- " ed — the ſpeech not affected — the back " part of the occiput dull and painful — " a rigidity in the neck — in general cold " — pulſe low and regular — urine turbid, " but ſmall in quantity — catamenia re- " gular — breathing eaſy — ſleep interrupt- " ed — tongue white, not dry — a ſlight " numbneſs along the arm — countenance " pale — eyes lively — memory perfect."

On this I directed bliſters, at due intervals, to the head, betwixt the ſhoulders, and behind the ears; and internally Pil. Gummos. Guaiacum and Valerian Tincture: recommending farther the liberal uſe of muſtard and horſe-radiſh, and alſo the Cold-bath: but having no opportunity of ſeeing the patient, was obliged to refer the application or uſe of the whole, or any part, to the diſcretion of the apothecary, and friends about her.

Her

Her huſband, a Clergyman, hath ſince informed me, that ſhe grew much better, on the uſe of the vomit and the Guaiacum Tincture for a few days; but being eager to obtain a ſpeedy cure, the bliſters were applied, which, he thinks, by weakening and reducing her too much, retarded her recovery. However, by the uſe of the internal medicines, ſhe was ſurprizingly recovered. But, on catching cold, and exerting her ſtrength too much, and too ſoon, as apprehended, ſhe relapſed, which induced her to come to town, and put herſelf under my care. Her diſorder increaſed ſo faſt upon her, by the fatigue of the journey, or ſome other cauſe, that when ſhe arrived, I ſcarce ever ſaw a more deplorable object — formerly plump and florid, now pale and emaciated — involuntary motions all over her body, particularly in her head, neck, and hands, which rendered her unable to carry her meat to her mouth.

I gave her immediately Guaiacum and Valerian Tincture liberally, with chalybeats and the Bark; and in a few days after her

her arrival ſhe went into the Cold-bath; and by following this courſe for a month or five weeks, ſhe returned home greatly recovered. I recommended to her the occaſional uſe of her medicines, particularly the Guaiacum Tincture; and on the beginning of June following, her huſband writes to me thus: "My wife "is now much better than ſhe has ever "been yet, hath recovered her appetite, "feels herſelf ſtronger, and walks in her "garden and about her family affairs "with her uſual ſpirit and chearfulneſs, "ſo that we are now in great hopes of "a perfect recovery."—On the 28th November 1775, I had an opportunity of ſeeing my patient, and the pleaſure to find her in full health.

Now, may we not look upon the Caſe above as the conſequence of a neglected or ill-treated Gout?—Will not the following account, which I received from her huſband in September 1774, warrant ſuch a conjecture?

"December 1769, my wife ſtrained

"her

" her ankle by a fall, which confined
" her for a month or five weeks, and
" was treated in a manner as ſtrains
" uſually are; and at length ſhe recover-
" ed the uſe and ſtrength of her ankle.
" In the autumn following; *viz.* 1770,
" the ſame part was affected again, with-
" out her being ſenſible of having done
" any thing to occaſion it. She com-
" plained of ſhooting pains, the ankle
" ſwelled, and looked red and ſhining.
" She, thinking it to be the conſequence
" of the ſtrain, of her own accord, rub-
" bed it with opodeldoc, wrapped it in
" flannels, &c."

" She was in like manner affected in
" the autumn 1771, for ſeveral days, but
" doth not remember whether ſhe uſed
" any application, but that of flannel.
" In October 1772, ſhe was ſeized with
" a violent diſorder in her breaſt, which
" was called and treated by the apothecary
" as an inflammation of the lungs, by
" bleeding, bliſtering, and powders of
" ſome kind or other."

" At

" At a diſtance from home, July 1773, " ſhe was affected in a manner that ſhe " had not experienced before—a total loſs " of ſtrength.—This was ſucceeded by a " numbneſs in the back part of her head. " However, ſhe got better without ap- " plying to medicines. September fol- " lowing, ſhe had a ſlight attack of the " ſame diſorder; and hath had more or " leſs of that numbneſs in her head, at " different times, ſince ſhe was firſt at- " tacked with it."

" January laſt, 1774, when on a viſit " at ——— ſhe was ſeized with ſuch a " general illneſs—numbneſs in her head " —coldneſs at ſtomach (a)—coldneſs and " ſtiffneſs in her neck, &c. as obliged " her to leave the company. I got ſome " ounces

(a) " This circumſtance," ſaith Dr. MEAD, " which " I have ſcarcely ever remarked in any other diſtem- " per, is here to be obſerved, that when the Gout hath " ſeized the ſtomach, this organ becomes ſo cold and " torpid, that wine ſeems no ſtronger than water; and " it requires, and eaſily bears, the hotteſt liquors, ſuch " as

" ounces of Sal. Volatile, and gave it " her pretty plentifully, which might " perhaps be a means of preventing the " increaſe of her diſorder till the latter " end of February, when it appeared " with violent ſymptoms indeed, and I " applied to you for her."

Whether or no theſe dreadful ſymptoms were the effects of a repreſſed Gout, let the medical reader judge for himſelf.

" as ſpirits drawn from wine. Wherefore not only " generous wines are to be given in pretty large quan- " tities, but alſo vinous ſpirits rendered more efficacious " by the infuſion of ſnake-root, ginger, or garlick. " And if theſe ſhould not prove powerful enough, it " will be proper to order the powders of ſnake-root, " ginger, or long-pepper, mixed with the Cordial Con- " fection, to be taken by the mouth."

CASE

CASE III.

MRS. BURTON, of Tottenham, in the 30th year of her age, formerly of a ruddy and healthy, now of a more pale and ſickly complexion, was invaded by the Gout, with fever, the beginning of January 1774, which ran through almoſt every part of her body. It firſt began in her arms, deſcended from thence to her knees and feet, which grew red, ſwelled, and painful. Her hands alſo became affected in the ſame manner, and continued ſo till the termination of her illneſs.

February 16th, I was called to her aſſiſtance, and found her greatly exhauſted by the pain, and want of reſt, but moſt of all by her night-ſweats. Her tongue was white, but moiſt;—urine thick and turbid;—pulſe quick, but not full or ſtrong.

She

She was then, and had been all along coſtive.

Six ounces of blood were taken from her, which was, as uſual, ſizy. This gave her almoſt inſtantaneous relief, inſomuch that it diſpoſed her to wiſh to be bled every day. A draught, with two drachms of Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. was directed to be taken every, or every other night, and a decoction of the Bark, with Conf. Cardiac.

18th the bleeding was repeated, and the medicines continued, when I left her conſiderably better, and had no opportunity of ſeeing her till the 26th. In that interval ſix ounces more blood were drawn by the advice of the apothecary, which had its uſual buffy appearance; but it was the patient's own remark, that the firſt bleeding afforded the moſt ſenſible relief. Except a cordial mixture, and the addition of a little Tinct. Thebaic. to the night draught nothing farther of moment was preſcribed.

27th I left her to all appearance well, and ſhe hath continued ſo ever ſince, excepting

excepting a ſlight ſtiffneſs in her arms; and that ſhe fails, in one particular, of her uſual regularity. From this latter circumſtance, however, ſhe finds no great inconvenience.

To prevent a relapſe (for ſhe had a ſimilar attack, but of longer continuance, about twelve years ago, and was on that occaſion, as ſhe informs me, bled with the lancet and leeches, by the direction of a phyſician of reputed eminence, not leſs than ſixteen times) the Cold-bath was recommended, and ſhe hath derived from it the intended benefit.

CASE IV.

MR. FRALEY, junior, of Friday-Street, about thirty years of age, of a thin habit, and when in health of a florid countenance and active diſpoſition,

tion, had ſome years ago a fit of the Gout, which was ſo ſlight that the remembrance of it had almoſt eſcaped him.

In the ſpring 1774, his friends grew very apprehenſive for him, ſuppoſing him to be haſtening faſt into a conſumption. His appetite failed him, and he grew ſick at the ſight of food. Towards morning, he broke out into ſweats. He had a ſlight cough and pain in his head. The left ſide of his face ſwelled and became red and painful, which he ſuppoſed to be the effect of a cold, or a Rheumatic pain, as he called it.

When I firſt viſited him, I directed nothing more than a mild emetic (b), which had the beſt effect: for the ſame night the Gout ſeized his great toe, which brought to his remembrance the former attack, and gave him ſo much pain,

" (b) A gentle vomit, ſuch as the Indian root is, " is not only proper, but even abſolutely neceſſary, " becauſe vomits do, the moſt effectually of any thing, " throw every diſorder out of the habit, and ſo are the " moſt probable means to expel the Gout on the " extremities."

Dr. CHEYNE.

as deprived him of all reſt. The pain of his face, however, immediately abated, and the ſwelling and redneſs diſappeared alſo. Though the pain in his toe was exquiſite for the time, no fever enſued.

The Tincture was directed in ſuch quantities only as were ſufficient to keep his body open, and the diſorder in that part where nature, aſſiſted by the action of the vomit (c), had happily lodged it. The Bark and Cordial Confection were alſo preſcribed.

In leſs than ten days, all his complaints ceaſed. His ſtrength, ſpirits, and appetite returned. The night-ſweats, by which he was ſo much exhauſted, left him intirely. To the pain in his great toe, which extended itſelf ſometimes through the foot, ſucceeded a great itching, and the cuticle peeled off.

Theſe

(c) A gentleman in Catherine Court, Tower Hill, for a few days ſlightly feveriſh with ſickneſs, was very lately, on my giving him the Ipecac. with Antimonial wine, ſeized the ſame night with the Gout in his foot.

Theſe complaints removed, he betook himſelf to his horſe and the Cold-bath, as adviſed; hath had an interval of ſeveral years; and, if he perſiſt in the uſe of them, will, in all probability, prevent much future miſery.

CASE V.

PETER STRINGER, of Hackney, a gardener, fifty-eight years of age, of a ſtrong make and ſanguineous habit, had often, of late years, been troubled with Rheumatic complaints (d), affecting chiefly his loins and hips, which he generally removed by the uſe of Gum

 Guaiacum,

(d) The following are Dr. QUINCY's words—"Why "Rheumatiſms likewiſe, and hyſterical affections, are "frequently fore-runners of the Gout in the female ſex, "[and hypocondriacal affections in men] is, becauſe "thoſe diſorders are from the ſame peccant matter as "the Gout; which is farther confirmed by their intire "removal after a fit of the Gout, in manner as moſt "other nervous diſtempers are."

Guaiacum ſteeped (e) in brandy, of which he took, what he called, a pap-ſpoonful twice a day in barley-water.

March 5th, 1774, being at work, and expoſed to the wet, the Gout ſeized his left-hand, which inſtantly became, and continued intolerably painful, ſo as to deprive him of reſt for four days and nights. His hand became ſwelled, highly inflamed, and ſo ſtiff, that he could not move a ſingle joint of his fingers.

His old medicine, which he had uſed liberally,

(e) Dr. CLERK, in his *obſervations* on the arthritis anomala, ſpeaking of one of his patients who was confined with a regular Gout every winter, from one to four months, ſaith, "he tried ſeveral remedies, with "a view to prevent or leſſen the fits; but the one, "which he found of moſt uſe, was a Tincture of "Gum Guaiac. in brandy, twenty drops of which, "taken evening and morning when the fit was upon "him, uſed to put it away in three or four days. "As he was told, that this method of cure might be "attended with danger, on account of its ſudden "operation, without producing any remarkable eva-"cuation, he only uſed it in ſome fits; beſides, he "never took it in the intervals."—Was this patient rightly informed?—Or could *twenty drops* of the Tincture produce the effects here aſcribed to it?

liberally, failing him on this occaſion, he came to me on the 29th, in the ſtate above deſcribed, muffled up with flannels, with a weak but regular pulſe. He was regular alſo in his habit of body, and in his manner of living; but his occupation ſubjected him to heats and colds.

After adviſing him to diſmiſs his flannels, which was done with ſome reluctance, half an ounce of the Tincture was given him four ſucceſſive days, which generally produced two or three motions, and was attended with apparent advantage, inſomuch that, April 2d, he was able to purſue his uſual labour, which he hath done ever ſince, now ſeven years, without the leaſt inconvenience, and without uſing any other means.

CASE VI.

E—— T—— of Kinſland, aged fifty, of a midle ſtature, a ſtout well-made perſon, of a florid complexion, was ſeized with the Gout about the 26th of April 1774.— It had continued upon him three weeks before he applied to me, and confined him to his bed, where he lay in great pain, unable to turn or aſſiſt himſelf.

When I ſaw him, the diſorder had fixed itſelf chiefly in his hips and loins. He was free indeed from fever, but, having then a ſtrong, full pulſe, was bled, with no apparent relief, however, from that evacuation, though his blood was thick and ſizy. Half an ounce of the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. was given him every morning for a week, with as little benefit. After that he took a full ounce at once daily, for near the ſame time, which,

which, without occaſioning any ruffle, intirely removed the pain from his hips, and loins into his left thigh and knee.

The quantity of the medicine was after that reduced one half. The pain abated; in four days almoſt intirely ceaſed; and bathing in a neighbouring rivulet compleated the cure.

CASE VII.

A Gentleman, of Hackney, aged fifty-nine, formerly ſtout and robuſt, now vaſtly emaciated by repeated attacks of the Gout, for above twenty years, notwithſtanding a life of great regularity and temperance, never had it in his extremities but once, and then it fell into one of his feet, but did not continue there above ſix or ſeven days. His ſtomach, head, and lungs, were

were generally and chiefly affected, and a confirmed aſthma had taken place for ſome years. But he always obſerved, and it was viſible to every beholder, that his breath was moſt high and laborious when a fit of the Gout was upon him, and when his pain was moſt intenſe.

He was become univerſally yellow — white of his eyes remarkably ſo, urine high-coloured and turbid—pulſe low and tremulous. He was generally coſtive. Hence the piles, with which he was formerly afflicted, were ſuppoſed to proceed. They were of the bleeding kind, and diſcharged at times profuſely. Finding no benefit from a long attendance of regular phyſicians and ſurgeons, he applied to a noted Adventurer in phyſic, who, for a ſingle moidore, recommended to him to inject now and then two ounces of burnt brandy, which was complied with, and effectually ſtopped the effuſion. Whether any of the patient's preſent complaints might be occaſioned by ſo ſudden a ſuppreſſion of a natural, and oftentimes ſalutary

lutary evacuation, is left to the determination of thoſe who know the danger of diverting ſuch critical diſcharges.

My advice was requeſted 24th April 1774, when he had a ſevere fit upon him, and thought himſelf, and was thought by all his friends in the utmoſt danger. Half an ounce of the Tincture was given him that night, which he retained without the leaſt inconvenience, and which gave him perfect eaſe at his ſtomach in leſs than two hours, producing afterwards a few gentle motions.

The next day he quitted his bed, and was in every reſpect as well as uſual; and nothing farther was directed for him, except a cordial draught. He found himſelf ſo much relieved by the ceſſation of the pain, and the freedom of his breathing, that he thought more medicine, to which he was at all times averſe, unneceſſary. Nor, his caſe being thus circumſtanced and complicated, did I urge it upon him, but left him with this advice, carefully to avoid catching cold, and to truſt

truſt to his horſe, of which he made daily uſe.

He continued in a tolerable ſtate of health, free at leaſt from any violent attack of the Gout, till Auguſt 10th, 1774, when I was again ſent for, the pain at his ſtomach being moſt excruciating, and the difficulty of breathing greater than ever. In other reſpects he was much the ſame, perſuaded, that if the pain at his ſtomach could be removed, he ſhould find immediate relief in his breathing.

I directed for him that night the Tincture, which cauſed him to reach a little, proved gently aperient, eaſed intirely the pain at his ſtomach, and his breath alſo became leſs affected.

The medicine was repeated two days afterwards with the like effect, but without occaſioning ſickneſs. Saline draughts, well warmed with Conf. Cardiac. and Damoc. with Gum Guaiacum and Sulphur occaſionally, were directed and continued to the 18th, when I left him happily

happily reſtored to his uſual ſtate of health.

In a caſe ſo complicated, a *radical* cure is not to be expected.

CASE VIII.

MISS FENWICK, of Watling-Street, rather of a ſanguineous, habit, chearful temper, active diſpoſition, and remarkably abſtemious, had the Gout in her ſtomach to a great degree the latter end of June 1774, which was totally removed by taking, of her own accord, a full ounce of the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. in the ſpace of an hour.

24th Auguſt it attacked her again, firſt in the ancle, occaſioning a ſtiffneſs, as if ſtrained; but afterwards flying to her ſtomach, betwixt three and four in the afternoon, ſhe took at twice, one ounce of the Tincture, and, deſirous to drive it

it away with all ſpeed, half an ounce more at bed-time, and reſted well after it.

I was conſulted on the 26th, when the pain at her ſtomach was conſiderable, but not ſo intenſe by far as it had been: though even then it frequently pierced through her ſtomach to her back.

Having ſufficient reaſon to ſuſpect that the pain at her ſtomach was protracted by worms of the aſcarides kind, I adviſed her to deſiſt, for the preſent, from the Tincture, and to take ſomething different that night, in which regard would be had to both her complaints. Accordingly a Bolus, conſiſting of a ſcruple of Gum Guaiac. with a like quantity of Spices, and gr. vi. of Merc. Dul. was directed that night; and twice a day afterwards, without the Merc. Dul.

A great number of aſcarides was voided after the firſt Bolus; but neither that, nor the ſucceeding ones, moving the pain intirely, recourſe was again had to the Tincture; after taking three doſes

of

of which, I left her at perfect eaſe; not omitting, however, as I rarely do, to recommend the Bark and the Cold-bath, where there appears no ſufficient reaſon to the contrary.

Some years ago, while this lady was at Bath, the Gout ſeized her hand, which was red, ſwelled, and painful for a conſiderable length of time.—This circumſtance renders the Caſe unequivocal.

CASE IX.

MARY QUINCY, reſident with the lady laſt mentioned, twenty-three years of age, a ſtout ſtrong-made perſon, of a dark complexion, enured to hard labour from her infancy, was about the middle of Auguſt 1774, racked with a violent pain in her head; to remedy which half an ounce of the Tincture was given, by the advice of one in the family,

family, in the morning, and the ſame quantity at night, which operated, as the caſe was repreſented to me, by ſweating only: but, the pain continuing, bliſters were applied the next day, by the direction of the ſame perſon, behind the ears, which were ſuppoſed to give ſome relief. The Tincture was ſtill continued, till the Gout ſhewed itſelf manifeſtly, by the pain, ſwelling, and redneſs of the right foot.

This happened on the 30th, when my attendance was deſired.

I recommended, ſeeing no reaſon to the contrary, a perſeverance in the uſe of the Tincture, which agreed perfectly well with the patient; acting by perſpiration, but not ſenſibly by ſtool.

The next day the other foot became affected in the ſame manner, and both continued in that ſtate till 4th September, when, the pain and ſwellings abating, ſhe walked about with tolerable eaſe; and, on the 6th, I left her quite well.

It is needleſs to repeat what was farther

ther recommended, with a view of ſtrengthening the habit in general, and preventing a return of the complaint; and altogether as needleſs to repeat, how little attention is paid to ſuch advice, when perſons are once at eaſe and free from pain.

CASE X.

MR. SIBONNE, of Low-layton, aged ſeventy, naturally of an athletic habit, but now greatly reduced by many ſevere attacks of the Gout, deſired my advice in the ſpring 1774. He was thought by all his acquaintance, and ſo he appeared to me, near his end. All expected from me was, to give him, if poſſible, a little temporary relief from a moſt agonizing pain now fixed in his hip, which confined him to one poſture, and deprived him of reſt. He was univerſally

univerſally yellow, without fever, but coſtive—pulſe low and languid.

A few ounces of blood were directed to be taken away by cupping, a large bliſter to be applied immediately afterwards to the part, and the Tincture, ſeeing nothing to forbid it, was alſo directed.

Luckily, however, before I quitted the room, I was informed of a moſt material circumſtance, which, till that moment, had been concealed from me; *viz.* that the patient had for many years been troubled with a rupture, which added greatly to his preſent affliction. On this the Tincture, leſt it ſhould prove too irritating, was omitted; and gentle laxatives, with cordials, ſupplied its place. The cupping was omitted alſo, no one being at hand to perform the operation: the bliſter, however, and the laxative, anſwered very well, and procured great relief. But in no long time, as was eaſy to foreſee, he died.

Now this Caſe would not have been related, had it not fallen within the limited

limited time which I had preſcribed to myſelf; and for this farther reaſon, to ſhow how dangerous it may be to conceal any material circumſtance from the phyſician, as the following Caſe will yet farther evince.

CASE XI.

MR. P—— of Shoreditch, aged ſixty, crippled and emaciated with the Gout, with which he had been afflicted above twenty years, requeſted me to viſit him on the 29th of July, 1774. Many of his fingers were diſtorted, and almoſt every joint of his hands affected either with chalk-ſtones or calloſities, ſome fixed, others moveable—one hand was ſwelled, inflamed, and painful—no fever attendant — habit coſtive — urine pallid, depoſiting a light whitiſh ſediment. He had long given up (indeed it was not to

be expected) all hope of a perfect recovery. The circumſtance moſt diſtreſſing to him, far more ſo than any pain he experienced, and for which he now anxiouſly ſolicited relief, was a certain inquietude and reſtleſſneſs during the night, which quite exhauſted both his ſtrength and ſpirits. On this account he had applied to a phyſician of reputed eminence, who directed for him Caſtor-draughts, from which he thought he had received ſome benefit, but which now, through long uſe, were become inefficient.

Two drachms of the Guaiacum Tincture were directed twice a day, and a mild anodyne now and then, for about a week. This gave him conſiderable eaſe; but it was neceſſary to conceal from him what was given, as he aſcribed his principal complaint to the daily uſe of an Opiate, recommended by the late Dr. Warner.

I now directed the four drachms, taken at twice, to be given at once, frequent doſes being diſagreeable to the patient. The next night he paſſed in the greateſt miſery, from an inceſſant urgency to make

make water (f), a complaint with which he had frequently been troubled, and pain in the lower part of the abdomen.

It now appeared, (not the leaſt intimation was given of it before) that the patient had for many years been afflicted with a rupture, and that the part was more or leſs affected on every attack of the Gout. Every medical perſon will eaſily conceive how I was ſhocked at the information. Happily for me the patient attributed all his ſufferings to a freſh attack of the Gout, while I attributed them to the irritation of the medicine. However, twenty-five drops of Tinct. Thebaic. intirely allayed the ruffle, and procured him perfect eaſe.

After expoſtulating with my patient

 on

(f) " It is farther to be noted," ſaith Dr. SYDENHAM that moſt Gouty perſons, after the diſeaſe has " been of long ſtanding, become ſubject to the *ſtone in* " *the kidnies*, and are generally ſeized with *nephritic* " *pains*, either at the height, or more frequently at the " declenſion of the cardinal fit, which are very ſevere, " and weaken the patient conſiderably, who was but " too much debilitated and exhauſted by the preceding " diſtemper."

on his indiſcretion in concealing ſuch a circumſtance, I adviſed him to conſult a ſurgeon without farther delay, and to have the part carefully examined. My advice was diſregarded, but fortunately not the leaſt bad conſequence enſued.

CASE XII.

RICHARD BUNDY, of Homerton, thirty-eight years of age, of a tall, thin, ſanguineous habit, and active diſpoſition, was firſt afflicted with the Gout in the year 1766. It was then principally confined to his great toe, which was ſeveral times invaded by it that year; nor hath he ever ſince been free from it any one year in a greater or leſſer degree, except in the year 1769, when he had an inflammatory fever, in which he was ſeveral times bled. The attacks of the two laſt years have increaſed re-

remarkably, both in ſeverity and duration.

I was not conſulted in any of his fits, except the laſt, which happened the 11th of June 1774. It began in the joint of one of his fingers of the right hand, which ſwelled and inflamed, and where was formed a hard moveable ſubſtance.

From that joint it paſſed to ſeveral other joints of the ſame hand, to the wriſt, elbow, and ſhoulder, then to the hip, and acroſs his loins to the knee, ankle, and foot of the ſame ſide. In a few days the left ſide was affected in the ſame way, ſo that he could ſcarce be ſaid to have a ſingle joint free from pain. The hand firſt affected, was the laſt in recovering. A ſmart fever accompanied his other complaints for three weeks. He was generally regular in ſtools, and his urine, more eſpecially while his fever continued, was, according to his own account, thick and muddy.

I did not ſee him till July 17th, when the feveriſh ſymptoms had greatly abated, and the ſwellings remained only in his

right hand and feet. His pulſe, however, was quick, but low.

With his fleſh he had loſt his ſtrength and his appetite alſo, and was become ſo feeble, and his pain and ſtiffneſs ſo univerſal, that he could ſcarce ſupport, and was unable to dreſs or undreſs himſelf.

The Tincture was given ſometimes once, ſometimes twice a day, from which he received great benefit, and in about a week was ſo far recovered, that he walked a mile to the next river to bathe. On the 5th day after which he was able to dreſs himſelf alſo, and his appetite and ſtrength returned ſo quickly, that after nine or ten bathings, he thought himſelf perfectly well; and hath followed his uſual occupation ever ſince. Damp and foggy mornings, and the diſtance of the water from his houſe (and theſe things only) diſcouraged him from perſevering in the uſe of the Bath.

CASE

CASE XIII.

MRS. WILTON, of London Field, Hackney, had been for ſome time in a declining ſtate of health, from a a variety of nervous and flatulent complaints, accompanied alſo with a pain at her ſtomach, at times extremely intenſe, and for which ſhe found no relief from whatever had hitherto been preſcribed. Loſs of appetite, ſtrength, and ſpirits inſued. Her complaint was by ſome called Gouty, by others Rheumatic, by others again (making a compound of it) a Rheumatic-Gout. Be it what it would, finding her faint and low, free from fever, but coſtive, July 22, 1774, I directed the Guaiacum Tincture, of which ſhe took ſix full doſes. The pain ceaſed — her appetite returned, and, in ſhort, ſhe received ſuch immediate and univerſal be-

nefit (g), as determined her to keep the preſcription by her. Suffering a ſlighter attack of her diſorder more lately, ſhe had recourſe to the Tincture a ſecond time, and received preſent relief.

(g) Sir JOHN PRINGLE ſaith, "Lime-water neither "retards fermentation, like the lixivial ſalts, nor ha- "ſtens it, nor makes it ſo violent as the *teſtacca* do; "and being at the ſame time ſomewhat aſtringent, be- "comes a good medicine for weak ſtomachs, with a "*predominating acid*; as ſeveral have experienced, who "were ſubject to the Gout, Gravel, and other chronic "diſeaſes, ſeemingly depending on that cauſe." — Should this be the caſe, will it not in ſome meaſure account for the immediate relief received in this and ſome other Caſes, on giving the Tinct. Guaiac. Volat.? — And farther, if the Gout in the ſtomach be dependent on a *predominating acid*, ought we not to ſuppoſe it (allowing for any alteration it may undergo by an admixture with other fluids) to be of the ſame nature wherever found, whether in the head, the hand, the foot, toe, *&c.*

CASE

CASE XIV.

MRS. FREEMAN, of Stoke-Newington, temperate, and of a chearful, active diſpoſition, was formerly ſubject to what were called Rheumatic complaints, but moſt of all, to ſuch as were deemed bilious. An attack of the laſt kind was on the 3d of May 1774. It was ſudden and ſevere—pain at her ſtomach intolerable—reachings inceſſant. The aid of the apothecary failing, a phyſician of reputed eminence was called in, who directed, at different times, three ſtrong emetics, and various active purgatives, to remove an obſtinate coſtiveneſs, with ſtrong cordials, anodynes, and fomentation to the part. The art of the phyſician, after repeated trials, proving equally unavailing, the patient had recourſe to random experiment, and to whatever the regard of her friends ſuggeſted. All to no purpoſe. Every attempt to relieve the pain, ſeemed but to increaſe

increaſe it. Balm and mint tea was her chief ſupport; and the agony of the pain depriving her of reſt for many days and nights, exceſſive debilitating ſweats inſued. Her ſtrength and ſpirits being thus exhauſted, ſhe gave way to melancholy and dejection; and her only hope of relief was in death.

At length, however, after ſhe had abandoned all medicine, the pain quitted her ſtomach, and fled firſt to her breaſt, and afterwards to her head, where it remained with ſo great violence, as ſuffered her to take no reſt. Blood frequently guſhed from her noſe but without affording any eaſe. Every means of relief, hitherto tried, failing, a ſound tooth was drawn, by the advice of a medical perſon, on the ſuppoſition that the pain was occaſioned by a compreſſion upon the nerve; the loſs of which, as it did not procure even a momentary reſpite, the patient has only to regret.

After ſuffering for two months inexpreſſible anguiſh, my advice was requeſted July 5th. And apprehending the Caſe to

to be neither bilious, nor aguiſh (in which lights it had hitherto been conſidered, and treated accordingly) but a gouty affection, I directed the Guaiacum Tincture in full quantity twice a day, which agreed perfectly well with the patient, cauſing a grateful thrill (as ſhe expreſſed it) through her whole body, and tending alſo to keep it open; to effect which, had hitherto proved a matter of great difficulty. In a few days the pain in her head abating, it was ſucceeded by a pain in the ankle (h), unattended, however, either with ſwelling or redneſs. This ceaſing alſo, I left her on the 11th, to all appearance perfectly well, recommending to her, as the beſt preventative, to continue the Bark, and to make uſe of the Cold Bath, with which ſhe readily complied, and hath not had the leaſt return of her complaint.

On

(h) Miſs Lloyd, of the ſame place, was very lately affected with the Gout in her head, ſucceeded by a pain in her ankle, of both which ſhe was in a little time freed by the ſame means.

On the 18th, indeed, a raſh broke out, which continued for two or three days, but which did not appear to be at all connected with her former complaints.

I ſhall but juſt add here, her pulſe was always languid—urine generally pale, with a white downy ſediment. (i)

CASE XV.

MRS. PARKS, of Lambeth, of a corpulent habit, pallid complexion and lax fibre, whoſe parents and

(i) The reader will obſerve, that I have been attentive to the appearances in the urine in this, as well as in ſome other Caſes; not indeed from a perſuaſion, that much uſeful knowledge doth at *preſent* reſult from ſuch appearances, but yet judging it not improper barely to record the matter of fact. And I have been the rather induced to do this, as ſome perſons have of late laid great ſtreſs on this point, particularly Dr. CLERK, who gives the following as a diagnoſtic of the Gout, *viz.* "white ropy filaments floating in the urine, which, "when taken out, are pellucid, and when dried, turn "to a kind of Calx."—But is this obſervation well-founded or not?

and near relations had been martyrs to the Gout, deſired my advice in the ſame diſorder 1ſt September 1774.

I found her feveriſh—pulſe quick, but low — tongue white — water thick and muddy — great thirſt — reſtleſſneſs — impaired appetite — faintings, with ſpontaneous ſweats and tranſient ſtitches in her left ſide, without however impeding her breath—head-ach ſo violent at times, that ſhe durſt not raiſe it from the pillow. Her habit was coſtive, and the Fluor Albus had afflicted her for many years.

The diſorder had harraſſed her above a fortnight before I ſaw her, having firſt ſeized her head with great violence, then her neck and ſhoulders. Half an ounce of the Tincture had been given twice a day for three days, on the recommendation of a Lady, into whoſe hands my pamphlet had fallen, and who had herſelf received benefit by the uſe of the medicine. But the left hand hereupon ſwelling, and the two laſt fingers thereof becoming red and angry, ſhe began to be alarmed, and durſt no longer truſt

truſt to her own judgment. Her fears ſoon communicated themſelves to the family, on which I was ſent for.

Having no reaſon to doubt of the proper application of the medicine, I recommended the farther uſe of the Tincture. The next day the pain, redneſs, and ſwelling abated, but the other hand ſwelled greatly, grew tenſe and fiery, and remained in that ſtate four days, when, the ſwelling ſubſiding, it became, like the other, flaccid, and of a more livid hue. The Tincture all this while ſat eaſy upon the patient's ſtomach, produced daily two or three eaſy motions, did not perceptibly augment the ſpontaneous ſweats, removed the malady properly to the extremities, diſpelled the feveriſh heats, and left matters, in leſs than a week, in ſuch a ſtate as gave the faireſt opportunity of throwing in the Bark, premiſing an emetic, (having twice diſcharged from her ſtomach a great quantity of white viſcid matter) which had the happieſt effect. I wiſhed to have cloſed

the

the whole with the Cold-bath (k) but another perſon (not a medical one indeed) intervening, and recommending the Warm-bath, it is probable, in this divided ſtate, the patient would make uſe of neither.

While I was attending on this Caſe the following remarkable incident occurred in the family.

Mr. PARKS had for a conſiderable time been affected with a violent pain in his head, which his apothecary pronounced to be aguiſh, and conſequently recommended the Bark, which he took in great quantity, and with great perſeverance, but

(k) Dr. WILLIAMS, *in his advice to people afflicted with the Gout*, ſays "Finding from experience, as well "as phyſical reaſoning on this ſubject, that the Cold-"bath, when prudently uſed, cannot act as a *repelling* "medicine, but the contrary, I muſt recommend it as "one of the beſt remedies in nature to brace up the "relaxed and weakened nerves and fibres, to give "force to the muſcles, to promote and give a due "velocity to the circulation in the minute veſſels of "the body, to open the pores and promote perſpira-"tion, and to ſtrain and purify the blood; and all this "without any fatigue to the patient, &c."

but without any good effect. In this extremity, a Lady, who had had frequent opportunities of ſeeing the Tinct. Guaiac. Vol. given by me in a numerous family, out of her great humanity, adviſed him to take a full ounce of it within the hour. This was about ten in the morning. The advice was readily complied with; and he ſoon found relief. At noon half an ounce more was given, and with ſo great ſucceſs, as encouraged them to hope and attempt a ſpeedy and effectual cure. Accordingly, the pain (though with conſiderable abatement) ſtill remaining, between nine and ten in the evening, an ounce more was given within the hour, which intirely removed his pain. On this he immediately called for his ſupper, eat heartily, went to ſleep, and awoke next morning fit for buſineſs, which he hath proſecuted ever ſince, without any interruption from his former pain.

Thus, in leſs than twelve hours, two ounces and an half of the Tincture were taken, not only with eaſe and ſafety, but with the greateſt benefit, though adminiſtered

niſtered by one who made not the leaſt pretenſions to medical knowledge.

That ſome ſuch event would take place, from my method of practice being made public, I eaſily foreſaw; and that more hazardous experiments would be tried in the uſe of the medicine, than the caution of the regular phyſician durſt venture to make. It gives me pleaſure, however, to find, upon the review of a long practice, as well as from the Caſe before us, that the doſe may be conſiderably augmented without the leaſt danger; and that Caſes may poſſibly happen, wherein it may, with advantage, be adminiſtered in even a ſtill more liberal manner.

The above Caſe, from the repreſentation given me of it, I judged to be that of an unformed Gout, and ſhould certainly have acted as the Lady did, though very probably not with the ſame fortitude.

CONCLUSION.

Thus have I laid before the Public, ſufficient proof of the ſafety and efficacy of one particular Medicine of the Diſpenſatory of our College; and have the ſatisfaction to find, that I have, in ſome meaſure, reſcued it from that ſtate of neglect into which it was faſt ſinking, by the haſty reflections, and ill-grounded prejudices of ſome perſons of no inconſiderable repute (k).

I ſhall only add, that if in the narration

(k) "This paſſion, this blindneſs," ſaith a certain writer, "for the honour of great names, and not "judging for ourſelves, is prepoſterous, and none "of the leaſt cauſes of that darkneſs and obſcurity, "which at this day attends medicinal inquiries."

tion of the Caſes (l), I may appear to ſome to have been unneceſſarily prolix, by too minute a detail of common appearances, whether in the blood or in the urine; let the following words of the *Medical Tranſactions* of our College be my apology, — "Almoſt all Facts teach ſome-"thing."

(l) The reader is once more deſired to obſerve, that theſe Caſes in the Gout are not ſelected or picked out of numbers, but are all taken as they riſe, in the courſe of my practice; and contain the *whole*, from a *limited* time; *viz.* from March 1772 to September 1774.

THE END.

APPENDIX

TO THE

CASES, &c.

N° I.

A Tranſlation of THREE LETTERS of Mr. EMERIGON's on the GOUT, with Remarks.

N° II.

An Extract from Dr. CLEPHANE's Inquiry into the Origin of the GOUT POWDER, with Remarks.

N° III.

A SIBERIAN PLANT recommended in the GOUT.

N° IV.

Dr. PANTON's Account of the Treatment of the GOUT in the WEST INDIES.

APPENDIX.

N° I.

INTRODUCTION.

I Was ſome time ago favoured by a perſon of conſideration with a tranſlation of two letters on the Gout, written by Mr. EMERIGON, Attorney General to the King of France, at St. Pierre, Martinique, on which I had made ſome remarks intended for the preſs. From another hand I have been lately obliged with three letters under Mr. EMERIGON's name in the original, authenticated with an imprimatur.

Signed,

Lé Preſident Taſcher.

Theſe letters, having an affinity to the foregoing treatiſe, and to gratify thoſe who may think them of more importance than I do, are here given to the Public; the two firſt under a more cloſe tranſlation than that which I had received, and the laſt, in ſubſtance only. If the printed copy be genuine, it ſhould ſeem that ſome undue liberties had been taken with it.

The reader will obſerve that this mark (†) denotes, the variations of the tranſlation ſent me, from the printed copy.

LETTER

LETTER I.

To the Count de NOZIERES.

St. Pierre, Martinique, Feb. 8, 1776.

SIR,

AGreeably to your requeſt I ſend you the account of my *Gout*, and the propoſed *Cure*.

This diſeaſe is not hereditary to me: I felt its firſt attack in 1767, the 55th year of my age.

Frequent, flying pains in my feet, knees, and hands, announced its approach, though I then did not think it was the Gout. But in 1769, I was ſeized with a fit attended with ſymptoms too characteriſtic of that diſeaſe, to leave me in any

doubt, that I was in the number of *Gouty* perſons.

This fit was followed by ſeveral others; oftentimes, many in the ſame year; each longer and more violent than the preceeding.

My feet, my knees, and my hands were attacked, one while ſeperately, another while both together.

My laſt fit, in September 1774, was the moſt ſevere; the attack was univerſal, and, for the ſpace of two months, I ſuffered inexpreſſible pain.

Fomentations and cataplaſms of every kind were employed, during the criſis, without ſucceſs, or affording me the leaſt relief.

I wiſhed to know the *cauſe* of this diſorder. Our phyſicians, ancient and modern, gave me to underſtand, miſerable comforters! that the Gout is a diſeaſe incurable—that its nature is unknown—that it is the ſovereign diſpoſer of torture—that it will yield to no force—that it becomes the more formidable by oppoſition—that all methods taken for ſoftening,

ing, or reducing it, ſerve only to irritate it, to prolong the fits, to throw it to the extremities, and, not unfrequently, to return it from thence to the vital parts; in ſhort, that the beſt remedy during the pain, is pain itſelf (a).

In contradiction to this doctrine, I have been aſſured, than an old man, who had loſt the uſe of all his limbs by the Gout, for more than five years, had been radi-

 cally

(a) Mr. EMERIGON's complaint, to the great diſgrace of the profeſſion, is but too well founded. And yet, of other diſorders, in the cure of which the phyſician is nearly as unſucceſsful, the dropſy, aſthma, ſtone, &c. no ſuch diſcouraging idea is entertained, relief is attempted at leaſt. And hope itſelf, whilſt it is an incentive to induſtry in the profeſſion, muſt adminiſter comfort to the patient, and therefore merits not in any diſeaſe to be altogether rejected.

And what means this general deſpair of ſucceſs in the Gout? — Or what inhumanity, may I not call it, thus to deſert our miſerable patients whilſt they are looking up to *thoſe* for relief, from whom ſurely, they moſt reaſonably expect it! Nay, who have a claim upon us to that induſtry and effort of the mind, which cannot be expected under deſpair. Let us no longer meanly leave them to accident for relief, or (which is indeed the common conſequence) force them into the hands of the unfeeling empyric.

cally cured by a remedy which he learnt of a Charib.

Having aſcertained the fact, and made myſelf certain of the method of cure, I immediately tried the ſame remedy, the ſalutary effects of which I ſoon experienced.

The receipt is as follows. To *three pints* (b) of rum put two ounces of Gum Guaiacum reduced to powder. Set it in the *ſun, for ſeven or eight days,* † (c) in a bottle

(b) I am not certain whether this is the meaſure intended by Mr. EMERIGON. In the original it is *trois pintes*, which was rendered, in the tranſlation ſent me, *three quarts*. This large proportion of the menſtruum muſt render the medicine too inefficacious, in confirmed and obſtinate Caſes, for the timely removal of the diſtemper; though little doubt can be made of its utility taken afterwards, even in this proportion, as an alterative, and by way of preventing the diſorder from returning with its uſual ſeverity. I ſpeak here from my own experience. To remove the diſtemper, or ſubdue its obſtinacy *ſpeedily*, I find it neceſſary to direct a much ſtronger preparation of the Gum, even to two ounces or more, in a pint of the menſtruum.

† (c) Au ſoleil pendent ſept à huit jours, "By the "*fire* for the ſpace of *ten days*."—Before I received the

bottle well ſtopped, turning it and ſhaking the liquor from time to time to promote the ſolution of the Gum, obſerving not to fill the bottle quite full, leſt the fermentation ſhould *break it* (d). Let the liquor be filtrated through muſlin or paper proper for the purpoſe. Decant it into proper bottles, which muſt be well corked. It is beſt to make a good quantity, as the medicine improves by age.

The doſe is a table ſpoonful to be taken *every morning* † (e) *faſting*.

The taſte is not pleaſant, but cuſtom will reconcile it.

The Spirit muſt be *rum*; brandy will not produce the ſame effect.

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the printed copy I made the following remark, *viz.* Half that time or leſs will ſuffice to render the ſolution fit for uſe. To wait longer, for its full effect, is but loſing time and continuing pain.

(d) It is certainly proper and neceſſary to allow ſufficient ſpace, that the bottle may be ſhook as directed. But the reaſon here given for it, reſpecting the *firmentation* might have been omitted.

† (e) Tous les matins, — "at going to bed."

I began to take this remedy in November 1774. *My legs* † (f), which uſed to retain a weakneſs for a long time after the fits, ſoon recovered their ſtrength and vigour. The *nodes* (g) [tumors] *which were formed upon almoſt all the joints of my feet and hands* † (h) are gradually diſappearing either by the medicine or by the uſe of white ſoap. *The play of the joints* † (i) is perfectly reſtored. There remains but two ſmall nodes [ſwellings] which give me no trouble, and are every day growing leſs and leſs.

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† (f) Mes jambes qui reſtoient, &c. — " The firſt " effect was, that my *hands* and *feet* which uſed to " retain, &c."

(g) I have never known the nodes (properly ſo called) give way eaſily either to medicine or outward applications. Tumors, indeed, or gouty ſwellings, both the medicine and the ſoap might contribute to remove.

† (h) Les nodus qui s'étoient formés ſur preſque toutes les jointures des pieds & des mains, ſe diſſiperent, &c. — " The nodes, or tumours, or both, were diſ- " placed, &c."

† (i) Le jeu des articulations eſt, &c. — " The " circulation is, &c."

I feel no longer thoſe flying pains which uſed to torment me, and were the ſure forerunners of a freſh attack, and for fifteen months paſt I have enjoyed my health, after being deprived of it for ſeven or eight years ſucceſſively.

The *daily* † (k) *uſe of this medicine* relieves me in other reſpects. Viſcous juices, eructations, acidities, and fullneſs at my ſtomach, accompanied with redundency of phlegm, obliged me to have recourſe from time to time *to the lancet* † (l) and to purgatives. Theſe inconveniencies are removed, and my ſtomach performs its functions with perfect eaſe.

I have reaſon to believe that this Tincture hath the virtue of breaking and dividing the *gouty matter* (m), of preventing

† (k) L'uſage journalier que je fais de ce remede — "The conſtant uſe of this medicine every *night*."

† (l) A la ſaignée & a la purgation — "To purgatives."

(m) Mr. EMERIGON very probably knows not, that it hath been frequently queſtioned, whether there exiſts any

ing it from accumulating and becoming ſtationary, and of evacuating it either by *expectoration* (n); which is very copious after taking the doſe, *or by producing the effect of a gentle purgative* † (o).

Notwithſtanding what I have ſaid I am not perfectly aſſured of my cure. People are apt to be too laviſh in praiſing medicines, if they have procured them a temporary relief only.

However, ſhould the preſent year paſs without my feeling any ſymptoms of the Gout, I ſhall think myſelf radically cured.

As to regimen—The rules I obſerve are as follow:

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any ſuch matter, and whether this diſorder is not merely an affection of the nervous ſyſtem. And yet, what ſhall we ſay to the ſhew of arthritic matter in the form of chalk ſtones? Is this the cauſe, or only the effect of the diſeaſe?

(n) Mr. EMERIGON miſtakes the copious diſcharge, he ſpeaks of, from the breaſt, for what is only glandular, occaſioned by the mere purgency of this medicine.

† (o) Soit en produiſant l'effet d'un léger purgatif —" or by ſome other means that I cannot account " for."

I ſhun high living and exceſs of every kind. *An hour or two after my doſe* † (p) I breakfaſt on milk.

I dine ſparingly, but am indifferent as to my choice of food. Fat or lean, ſweet, ſalt or *ſpiced*, cold or hot, ſit equally well on my ſtomach, unleſs I eat too much.

I make no ſupper, or eat very little. Old wine [de Bordeaux] with water, is my only drink.

I go to reſt about ten and riſe at five.

I have deſiſted from the uſe of the Bath, either warm or cold, it having ſuddenly brought on two fits of the Gout † (q).

† (p) Un ou deux heures après avoir pris ma doſe — Omitted in the tranſlation.

† (q) Je m'abſtiens des bains, ſoit tieds, ſoit froids; ils m'onte occaſionné ſubitement deux acces de Goutte —Omitted.

The above variations of the tranſlation ſent me from the original, the reader will obſerve, are not mere *inaccuracies*, but *material*, and muſt have been made with *deſign*. I ſhall trouble the reader no farther with any variations in what follows, leaving him to form his own opinion of the whole, except on thoſe paſſages which, ſuppoſed to be genuine, had drawn from me ſome remarks.

I am cautious of wetting my feet, two other fits ſoon following an accident of this kind.

By the help of the above medicine and regimen I enjoy at the age of ſixty four perfect health.

What a bleſſing to mankind would it be, Sir, if the ſame ſhould have power radically to cure the moſt ſevere and inſupportable of all diſeaſes!

I have the honour to be, &c.

[Signé] EMERIGON.

LETTER II.

St. Pierre, Martinique, Aug. 16th, 1776.

In anſwer to ſeveral perſons in Europe afflicted with the Gout.

SIR,

THE letter inſerted in the public papers under my name is certainly authentic. You may put entire confidence in the remedy

remedy †(r) mentioned in that Letter. To it I own both my preſent exiſtence, and the good health I enjoy at full ſixty-four years of age. It hath proved a real panacea to me. For ſeveral years an invalid, and afterwards a perfect ſlave to the Gout, I feel at this day not the leaſt inconvenience from it.

But will this medicine be attended with the ſame ſucceſs in *Europe* (s) as in America?

† (r) "This remedy till it has expelled and deſtroyed "the Gouty matter, is diſagreeable and *painful in its* "*operations*". On this ſentence, which is not to be found in the original, I had the following remark, *viz.* I am not certain of Mr. EMERIGON's meaning here. That he ſhould find it diſagreeable to his palate is not improbable. But this is the firſt time I have heard it complained of, as painful in its operation.

(s) This queſtion, it muſt be allowed, we have not ſufficient data to ground a concluſive anſwer upon. It is a medicine indeed, which hath been long enough in uſe in this quarter of the globe, for us to have aſcertained its comparative effects with ſome preciſion. But the mode in which it hath been adminiſtred, the diverſity of menſtruums employed for its ſolution, the improper quantity in which it hath been given, the injudicious combinations with other ſubſtances of a different quality, have tended to leſſen the idea of its efficacy.

But

rica? Experience alone can reſolve this difficulty.

I ſhould think, however, that the Gout muſt proceed from the *ſame principle* and from

But what, I believe, hath done it ſtill more injury, and what had nearly given the death's blow to its reputation, hath been the want of a patient and attentive obſervation of its operations ſimply conſidered. It was natural when a medicine hath been given for ſuch a length of time, not only with perfect ſafety, but with *general* good ſucceſs in Gouty complaints, to have carefully enquired (where a failure was apprehended) into the particular circumſtances which obſtructed its effect: and on the other hand, where the ſucceſs was apparent, accurately to notice and deſcribe the Caſes. Inſtead of this, it is too common to fly preſently to ſome other means of relief, either wholly different, or ſo varied by complication, as to afford no certain concluſions concerning the effect either of the whole, or any part of the compoſition. The preceding Caſes, however, it is preſumed, afford ſome certain ground on which to form a judgment of the uſefulneſs of the Guaiacum in this climate. And the more this method of communicating, and accurately judging by Caſes, obtains in the medical world, the nearer we ſhall come to a ſolution of Mr. Emerigon's query. In the mean time I have little doubt myſelf of its attaining its full effect ſooner in warm climates; but that this, however, may be in a great meaſure, if not wholly, made up, by proportioning the doſe, and a proper attention to raiment, &c.

from the *ſame cauſe* (t) in all thoſe who are afflicted with it. If this conjecture is juſt, the medicine muſt operate every where alike, except under a complication of diſorders.

To direct and fix your confidence upon ſome probable ground, conſult the *Dictionnaire Botanique & Pharmaceutique, Ed.* 1768, under the article Gayac; of which the following is an extract, *viz.* " The Guaiacum is " ſudorific, aperient, abſorbent [diſſicative] " purifies the blood, ſtrengthens the joints, " cures the *Gout*, *Sciatica*, *Rheumatiſm*, " *Dropſy*, *Defluxions*, and other complaints " which proceed from phlegm, mucilagi-

 " nous

(t) Not to theorize here about the uniformity of the principle, or cauſe from which the Gout may proceed, it is reaſonable, however, to think that the remedy, (allowing only for difference of circumſtances) will act equally on all conſtitutions. Indeed, was not this the Caſe, medical practice would reſt on a very uncertain foundation, as it is not to be ſuppoſed, that the phyſician can be acquainted with the different conſtitutions of his patients (to whom he may be altogether a ſtranger) while ſymptoms may ſufficiently indicate to him the nature of the diſeaſe. Not to add, that theſe may take their complexion from the conſtitution itſelf.

" nous tartar, wind, &c. The Gum acts " more powerfully than the Bark and the " wood. It ſhould be choſen clean, ſhi- " ning, tranſparent, of a reddiſh-brown " colour, crumbling readily, yielding when " bruiſed or expoſed to the fire, a ſtrong " and agreeable ſmell, and of a *ſharp taſte* " (u) [d'un gout acre]".

Since the publication of my letter, the greateſt part of the virtues attributed to this drug, have been verified by various aſtoniſhing cures, eſpecially of diſorders ariſing from phlegm, and I have reaſon to think the Gout is of that kind.

I believe I am the firſt who have made a conſtant and ſucceſſive (w) uſe of this remedy.

(u) I take not upon me to decide on the particular characters here given of the drug. I would only obſerve, that the choice of medicines, and procuring them genuine and uninjured, is of greater conſequence than is generally apprehended, and deſerving the ſerious attention and animadverſion of our College, if not of the Legiſlature itſelf.

(w) No wonder ſo little hopes are entertained of what is called a radical cure of the Gout by medicine, while ſo little attention is paid to the importance, nay, the

remedy. The receipt indeed which was given me preſented a liquor rather diſguſting. It was not filtrated. The Guaiacum was in too large a proportion. And I was obliged to drink that and the rum together. The gouty perſons, who had taken it before me, could not bear the ſtrength and tartneſs [pungency] [lácreté] of it. Thus forced to leave it off, they relapſed; and this brought the medicine into diſrepute. They have ſince adopted my new method of preparing it, and no longer doubt of their cure.

Laſt month, however, I experienced a

neceſſity of perſeverance in the uſe of the remedy preſcribed. For it is not in chronic as in diſorders of a ſhorter duration, where continuance in the ſame means of relief is not only unneceſſary, but might be injurious. And to this want of perſeverance of the patient on the one hand in the uſe of the remedy, and to the levity and inconſtancy of the phyſician on the other, we are to attribute its ſuppoſed failure in ſo many inſtances. This ſuppoſition, however, ſo apparent in the writings of modern practitioners, implying an imputation of the inefficacy of medicine, muſt be admitted as a conſiderable apology for the conduct of the patient under ſo great a diſcouragement to perſeverance.

ſlight attack of the Gout. I am not ſorry for it. It is a confirmation of my having made a full diſcovery of the properties of my medicine.

I had taken it for about 19 months without intermiſſion. The ſucceſs had exceeded my expectation. Since that time, I left it off from the firſt of laſt June to the 23d of July following, obſerving with great attention the reſult of this intermiſſion.

Nothing worthy of notice happened for the firſt 20 days. But I found afterwards, that my appetite began to fail, and that my ſtomach no longer performed its functions with eaſe. Pains in my head, indigeſtion, and other complaints, occaſioned by my phlegmatic habit, returned.

In the night of the 23d of July laſt, I felt a pain in the ankle-bone of my left leg, which continued to increaſe, and was attended with ſwelling [gouflement] redneſs and burning heat.

I uſed no external application, but had recourſe to my antiarthritic, of which I took, for three days together, two ſtrong doſes,

doſes, one in the morning, and the other in the evening. They procured a copious evacuation. On the 4th day almoſt every ſymptom diſappeared. On the 5th I felt not the leaſt pain. And my ſtomach was ſoon afterwards perfectly re-eſtabliſhed by taking only my daily doſe.

All that I have now the honour of relating to you is a fact, well known in this part of the world. Be aſſured, I have no motive for exaggerating the merit of this medicine. The good of mankind alone has prevailed on me to make public its virtues and efficacy.

Since the laſt trial I made of it, I conſider it in the light of a *daily aliment*, abſolutely neceſſary for the Gouty, to enſure them a ſolid and permanent cure.

The doſe is not ſtrictly confined, and may be encreaſed or diminiſhed, according to the habit of the patient, and the effect it produces. There is no harm even in reducing it, one third, when the cure is in a fair way. But, upon the leaſt diſorder in the ſtomach, it is proper to have recourſe for ſome days to the full doſe,

and even to enlarge it, if neceſſary, to make it act as a gentle purgative.

The uſe of *rum* appears to me indiſpenſible (x). It is aſſerted, that rum, being made from ſugar, poſſeſſes a balſamic quality, which brandy [eau de vie] has not. Rum is always preferred for dreſſings [panſemens] being ſtronger, more powerful and active.

My milk-breakfaſt, which I conſtantly take about two hours after the doſe is a bland corrective, in my opinion neceſſary.

I moſt ſincerely and ardently wiſh, Sir, that this medicine may be ſerviceable to you. To be informed of its ſucceſs will give me the greateſt pleaſure. How proud ſhould

(x) On what ground is this ſaid?—The writer doth not inform us, that he hath experienced the failure of the medicine when given in a different menſtruum. He tells us indeed, "It is thought that rum, which is made "from ſugar, contains in it a balſamic quality, which "brandy has not, and is more powerful and active." —But we muſt not depend upon what is *thought*. It hath been given with very good effect in brandy. Rum may be preferable. This preference, I ſhould think is not indiſpenſible. See p. 196. of the Caſes; alſo note d. in the ſame page.

ſhould I be, were I able to make my cure of this dreadful diſeaſe univerſally known.

I am, &c.

[Signé] EMERIGON.

LETTER III.

To Mr. EMERIGON, Counſellor at Marſeilles.

St. Pierre, Martinique, Jan. 18, 1777.

THE purport of this letter is to anſwer the queries and ſatisfy the doubts of certain gouty perſons in Europe.

This is done in ſix articles, the *ſubſtance* of which, I ſhall content myſelf with extracting, as conciſely as poſſible.

1ſt, Mr. EMERIGON authorizes his brother to aſſure the Queriſts that he continues to enjoy a perfect ſtate of health.

2d, Relates to the *heat* (y) *of the medicine*, the conſtant uſe of which for two years

(y) Dr. Scot, *in his inquiry into the origin of the Gout, in which a ſafe and certain mode of remedying it is propoſed*, ſpeaks thus of this medicine. "Gum Guaiacum, diſſolved in cane ſpirits, or rum, is another celebrated medicine in Gouty caſes. This Gum poſſeſſes the virtue of an alterative; it ſometimes opens the pores of the ſkin, more frequently increaſes the periſtaltic motion of the guts, keeping the bowels gently ſoluble. In theſe reſpects, it has greatly the advantage of the other remedy [Portland's powder] and under a more favourable climate, might be of very conſiderable uſe in Gouty caſes." This then is highly recommendatory of the medicine.

But now for the Dr's drawbacks—"In this climate it is *impoſſible*, ſays he, to keep the ſkin ſufficiently pervious to anſwer the end propoſed."—Impoſſible! far from it. Sometimes, even in this climate the ſkin is kept *too pervious* to anſwer the end propoſed.

Again, "The power of Gum Guaiacum upon the bowels as an alterative, is too weak to reſtore the periſtaltic motion, when ſtopt, or evacuate the bile, when collected, in an incipient paroxyſm of Gout." Has the writer tried its effects, in ſufficient quantity? certain it is, this Gum is naturally apperient, and, if not ſufficiently ſo for the purpoſe he ſtates, it is ſurely an eaſy matter to render it ſtill more active, ſhould that be the intention of the preſcriber.

But

years together, he conſiders as a ſufficient proof of the groundleſſneſs of any apprehenſions

But hear his chief drawback. "Such medicines are "in their nature much too *hot* to be perſiſted in with "ſafety."—How ſo! this their native warmth, one would think favourable to *cold petuitous* conſtitutions at leaſt, and particularly ſo in this climate.—Let us attend then to the reaſon he aſſigns why they are too hot *(viz.)* "the daily habit of ſo pungent a dram, muſt "in the end be attended with diſagreeable conſequen-"ces". What a reaſon! Is this ſaying any thing more than that, they cannot be perſiſted in with ſafety, becauſe in the end they will be hurtful? But tho' this is in reality the whole force of the argument, yet it is obvious what leads the Dr. to conſider this medicine as too hot, and conſequently of dangerous tendency, *(viz.)* "the *pungency* of ſuch a dram," as he ſtiles it. But to this he will probably be better reconciled by an attention to Dr. Whyte's remarks on camphire, &c. which may be well applied to this medicine. "Some "eſteeming it *hot*, and others of a *refrigerating* nature; "obſerving farther, that altho' in ſome caſes a glaſs of "claret or port, or even a dram of brandy will render "the pulſe ſlower, and the body *cooler*; and in catarr-"hous fevers, baſtard peripneumonies, pleuriſies and "anginas, bliſters often leſſen the quickneſs of the "pulſe remarkably; nevertheleſs, wine, brandy, and "bliſters, are in their own nature, not cooling but "heating: In like manner camphire [Gum Guaiacum] "as its effects in the mouth, and on the ſkin and the eyes,

henſions of harm ariſing from that circumſtance.

3d, The medicine may be taken in any, even the moſt critical ſtage of the diſeaſe.

4th,

" eyes, ſhew, is naturally heating; but ſometimes it " may cool, by leſſening or removïng ſome diſorder in " the body, which increaſed its heat and quickened the " pulſe. However, tho' I cannot agree, with thoſe " who think camphire [Gum Guaiacum] a cooling " medicine, yet I do not look upon it to be ſo heating " as ſome have imagined. Perhaps camphire may " excite a leſs degree of heat in the ſtomach than in the " mouth [Gum Guaiacum certainly does ſo] or even " than when applied to the ſkin; for we know that " the ſame ſtimulating ſubſtances affect the nerves of " the ſtomach and of theſe parts very differently." See alſo Dr. Quincy's remarks on the ſame ſubject, page 91, 92. of the Caſes.

So much for the ſuppoſed *heat* of the medicine; and that it may be ſafely perſiſted in, may be better reſted upon Mr. EMERIGON'S experience, than upon this writer's apprehenſions of danger, which may be only ideal.

But, why do I ſpend time?—If what the public prints have announced to us be a truth, the Dr's prejudices againſt the Guaiacum, as well as Portland's powder, are the leſs to be wondered at, and I have only to congratulate the tortured arthritic on ſo near a proſpect of deliverance.

4th, On freſh trials, Mr. EMERIGON changes his opinion of the neceſſity of perſevering after the cure in the *daily* uſe of the medicine. And now finds that, taking it twice a week is ſufficient, to prevent the accumulation of the gouty matter, and every other inconvenience.

5th, White ſoap in his opinion contributes much towards diſperſing the nodes, as he terms them, formed upon the joints, tho' wholly inefficacious, unaccompanied with the internal medicine.

6th, That Mr. EMERIGON is far from the only inſtance of the radical cure which this medicine has effected.

To theſe articles is ſubjoined a letter addreſſed to him from France, containing two inſtances of the good effect of the medicine in that climate, and a certificate from the Surgeon who attended him, expreſſing his belief, that this remedy is the ſpecific which has been ſought after for ages.

The whole concludes with a ſtring of Mr. EMERIGON's own narratives, too wonderful to gain the credit, he wiſhes them.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

N°. II.

An Extract from an Inquiry into the Origin of the Gout Powder. By JOHN CLEPHANE, M.D. F.R.S. &c. with Remarks.

THE reputation which a medicine lately introduced into this country, and known by the name of the Duke of Portland's Powder, has acquired in Gouty caſes, put me upon looking into ſuch of the practical writers, ancient and modern, as I had an opportunity of conſulting, to ſee if I could learn the age of ſo ſingular a compoſition, if it is of modern invention, or if it

it is to the ancients we owe, what promiſes nothing leſs, than a cure for a diſtemper hitherto conſidered, as beyond the reach of the phyſicians ſkill, and, even to a proverb, termed the reproach of his art.

I believe then it will be eaſy to ſhew, that medicines of this nature, and of a ſimilar compoſition, have been long known in phyſick; they were not only in uſe among the Greek phyſicians, but made a conſiderable part of their practice in Gouty and Arthritic complaints: afterwards indeed they ſeem to have fallen from that degree of eſtimation in which they had held them, and to have lain in a great meaſure neglected, till the introduction of the Greek volumes into the weſtern parts of Europe, when they were tranſcribed by ſeveral of the earlier medical writers, and brought into uſe in Italy, Germany, Switzerland, &c. where in ſome places theſe medicines ſeem ſtill to have retained a degree of credit; ſo that a particular form of them was brought from thence a few years ago, and revived in this country with

a perſon of high rank, and his experience in his own caſe to recommend it (z).

In

(z) The medicine, as I took it from the printed receipt with directions, is as follows:

For the Gout or Rheumatiſm.

℞. Ariſtolochia rotunda, or Birthwort } Root.
Gentian. —— ——
Germander
Ground pine } Tops and Leaves.
Centaury

Take all theſe well dry'd, powdered and ſifted, as fine as you can, equal weight, mix them well together, and take one drachm of this mixed powder every morning faſting in a cup of wine and water, broth, tea, or any other vehicle you like beſt, keep faſting an hour and a half after it, continue this for three months without interruption, then diminiſh the doſe to three-quarters of a drachm for three months longer, then to half a drachm for ſix months more, taking it regularly every morning if poſſible. After the firſt year it will be ſufficient to take half a drachm every other day. As this medicine operates inſenſibly, it will take perhaps two years before you receive any great benefit, ſo you muſt not be diſcouraged though you don't perceive at firſt any great amendment, it works ſlow but ſure, it doth not confine the patient to any particular diet, ſo one lives ſoberly and abſtain from thoſe meats and liquors that have always been accounted

pernicious

In this inquiry I ſhall confine myſelf to a ſhort hiſtory or account of the medicine, as far as I have been able to trace it, promiſing only a remark or two on the practice of the ancients in the Gout.

In general they ſeem to have had a much higher opinion than we have of the powers and efficacy of medicines in this diſtemper; for we find them extremely buſy with evacuations, alteratives, and external applications, as if really ſomething could be done; while the moderns leave the diſeaſe in a great meaſure to nature, and the ſick perſon to Patience and Flannel.

The diſtinction of the *podagra* and *arthritis* into three ſorts, namely, the ſanguineous, bilious, and pituitous, from the nature of the humour depoſited, as they ſuppoſed, on the joint or part affected, is the uniform

pernicious in the Gout, as champaigne drams, high ſauces, &c.

N. B. In the Rheumatiſm that is only accidental, and not habitual, a few of the drachm doſes may do, but if an habitual, or that has been of long duration, then you muſt take it as for the Gout, the remedy requires patience, as it operates but ſlow in both diſtempers.

uniform doctrine of the earlier ages before Galen, of Galen himſelf, and of thoſe who ſucceeded and copied after him.

Agreeably to this diſtinction their practice was directed; for in the ſanguineous they uſed the lancet freely; in the bilious too they bled often; and in all the three, but eſpecially in the pituitous, they gave their ſluggiſh griping purgatives, as the hermodactyls, *myrobalans*, agaric, &c. after which their method was to put the patient into a long courſe of the warm ſtomatic bitters, of which, when they come to mention the *formulæ* or preſcriptions uſed in their practice, we find many of them that reſemble our Gout powder, ſome nearly the ſame.

Altho' Galen, in the chapter which profeſſedly treats of Gout medicines, ſeems as ſparing of internals, as he is full upon the article of external applications, yet has he given us in another place, two different forms of internal medicines: the firſt, he tells us, was much uſed by the perſon whoſe name it bears; and of the other, which comes much nearer ours, he ſays what

what muſt be underſtood as a recommendation of it that he himſelf uſed it.

If to this we join the teſtimony of Cælius Aurelianus, who, I think, is generally allowed to have flouriſhed near Galen's time, if he was not his cotemporary, there will hardly be any room to doubt, that ſuch compoſitions were not only in uſe in Galen's time, but ſome ages perhaps before him.

The paſſage from whence this teſtimony of Cælius is taken, is in Lib. V. cap. 2. *Morb. Chronicor.* where he evidently alludes to our Gout-medicines, ſpeaks of them, as having been in uſe among thoſe he calls *Veteres.*

Now of thoſe warm, bitter ſtomatic compoſitions, the *antidoti antipodagricæ* of Galen, or the *annalia medicamina*, as Cælius terms them, ſo great a variety occurs in the writings of the Greek phyſicians after Galen, as well as of the later collectors of receipts; and ſo near a reſemblance do many of them bear to our preſent favourite medicine, that there will hardly, I imagine,

remain any doubt, of this being the ſource from whence it has been taken.

Ætius, in the chap. *de antidotis podogricis*, among other forms, deſcribes a *tetraphar-macum*, which, by the bye, is the *diateſ-ſaron* of ſome modern diſpenſatories, an *antidotus ex hyperico*, and an *antidotus ex gentiana*, all in vogue in his time, and all reſembling ours: but what I would more particularly take notice of, is what he calls the *antidotus podagrica ex duobus centaureæ generibus*, as being the medicine which comes the neareſt of any to our Gout powder: their difference is only in one ingredient (a).

Alexander Trallianus is likewiſe high in his commendations of the *antidoti* for the Gout, and gives us ſeveral forms, in all which

(a) The character of this medicine was great, for he ſays of it, Eſt ex vehementer laudatis et præter opinionem auxiliantibus, nam multos ejus uſu ſervatos novi; eſt enim adeo ſalutaris podagricis, ut quoſdam per xv annos podagrâ correptos, ejus uſus ad iter pedibus faciendum præparaverit: Eſt autem ſtomacho grata, alvo conferens, et urinam ciens. This is ſurely ſaying a great deal: I doubt, if the warmeſt advocate for our Gout powder could ſay more.

which our ingredients make the principal part of the compoſition.

Paulus Ægineta too has ſeveral *formulæ*, much the ſame with thoſe of Ætius and A. Trallianus: that which he calls the *antidotus Procli*, is the ſame with the *antidotus podagrica quæ vocatur climax*, of A. Trallian. and contains moſt of our ingredients, and is one of thoſe forms the ancients called *climax*, or *ſcala ſacra*, no doubt from ſome conceit of this kind of gradation.

And here let me recount a few particulars relating to their manner of adminiſtring thoſe remedies, and to the caſes and conſtitutions where they recommend them as beneficial, or where they forbid the uſe of them as hurtful.

The form we ſee was that of an electary, made up with honey, as was their method.

The doſe was a drachm, or the bigneſs of a hazel nut, in the morning faſting, with warm water *(ex aqua calida)*. And this was ordered to be continued for the ſpace of twelve months, but not without interruptions, or a leſſening of the doſe, or

both, as the caſe might require. At certain intervals too, as every too or three months, a purge was thought neceſſary; however, the year at any rate was to be compleated, for ſo much was generally thought neceſſary for a cure: hence the name εἰς ἐνιαύτον *medicamenta ad annum: annalia medicamenta, &c.*

If nothing haſtened or retarded this courſe, their method was to begin it in the ſpring or autumn: in cold phlegmatic conſtitutions, they chooſe the beginning of the ſpring; in hot, dry and bilious habits, the end of autumn.

The ancients recommended the *antidoti* chiefly in caſes that are not of long ſtanding, or as Cælius expreſſes it, "*iis qui non plu-*" *rimo tempore fuerint paſſione vitiati*," and ſeem to think them no longer ſafe paſt the term of five, or at furtheſt ſeven years from the firſt attack.

Cælius Aurelianus has told us and A. Trallianus makes the ſame obſervation, that a long uninterrupted uſe of thoſe compoſitions were by many condemned as a dangerous practice, and often fatal.

But

But the point in which they were moſt peculiarly cautious, was the diſtinguiſhing the different habits or temperaments, that is, thoſe were the *antidoti* were obſerved to do ſervice, from thoſe where they were found to be hurtful.

Ætius, though laviſh of his commendations of the *antidoti ad podagram*, condemns nevertheleſs the indiſcriminate uſe of them in all caſes and habits; for he aſſures us, that they were extremely hurtful in the hot and bilious, and are only proper in cold and phlegmatic conſtitutions (b).

This is likewiſe the language of A. Trallianus.

Paulus Ægineta too has the ſame doctrine.

How far theſe practical cautions and directions may be applicable to our Gout-medicine, time and experience will ſhew.

 Among

(b) Utilia ſunt his qui temperamenti ſunt, frigidioris, vel qui ex multo et craſſo fluxu laborant; verum his qui ex bilioſa fluxione afficiuntur, et omnibus calidiori temperamento præditis hæc ipſa nocentiſſima ſunt, *Ætii Tetrabit.* 3. *Serm.* IV. c. 47.

Among the Arabian writers, at leaſt thoſe whom I have looked into, our bitter ſtomatic compoſitions in this intention are hardly mentioned; it is true indeed, in aſſigning the virtues of the ingredients ſeparately, they ſpeak of them as ſerviceable in Gouty and Arthritic diſorders; but as for their compound alteratives in ſuch caſes, they ſeem to be chiefly of the ſpicy aromatic kind.

We again meet with our *antidoti* or Gout electaries (for that is the form) in ſome of the lateſt Greek writers. Actuarius has ſeveral forms reſembling thoſe of Ætius, and particularly the *antidotos Procli dicta* from Paulus.

Nicolaus Myrepſus too has ſeveral of the ſame, as the *antidotos Procli dicta*, the *Ægyptia magna et parva*, &c. in almoſt all which the ingredients of our powder make the principal part of the medicine.

In

In the ſupplement to Meſue, by Franciſcus de pedemontium, there is mention made of a powder for the Gout, of great efficacy, called *medicamen Hermetis* (c); it is made of ſome of our ingredients, but he does not ſay, from whence he took it.

I ſaid above, that ſome of the early writers, among the moderns, had copied many of theſe Gout remedies from the books of the Greek phyſicians; for this, we need only look into Sennertus, who has given us a large liſt of authors and preſcriptions,

 moſt

(c) Medicamen Hermetis, quod eſt proprium et mirabile valde in præſervando a doloribus junctuarum, et adminiſtratur poſt evacuationem, et eſt ex diureticis ebibitis juvantibus. ℞ Chamædryos, gentiana ana ʒ ix. ariſtolochiæ rotundæ ʒ ii ſem. rutæ ſicc. ʒ i. Terantur et cribellentur cribello ſubtili, et adminiſtretur cochleare unum. *Franciſc. de Pedemont. de ægritud. Junctuarum.* Cap. 8. pag. 113.

moſt of them borrowed with little variation, from Ætius, A. Trallianus, and Paulus Ægineta.

It was probably about this period, or ſoon after that thoſe medicines came into uſe in Italy and the neighbouring countries, and particularly that from which comes ſo near our preſent Gout powder; and which, about that time, I imagine, got the name of *pulvis principis Mirandolæ*, from having been recommended and brought into vogue by a prince of that country, perhaps the famous Joannes Picus.

I have looked into ſome of the earlier diſpenſatories of thoſe countries, not doubting but I ſhould find ſomething like our medicine, and bearing this name, but all in vain. The firſt and exacteſt deſcription I have met with of a medicine under this title, is from Tournefort, in his *Hiſtoire des plantes qui naiſſent*, &c. and is preciſely our powder, only with the addition of the *centaurium majus*.

This medicine was not altogether unknown in this country: Willis gives us ſomething very like it, and at the ſame time

time mentions the ancients, as the ſource from whence all thoſe alterative Gout medicines are derived (d).

J. B. Chornel ſpeaks of the *Poudre du prince de la Mirandole* as a famous remedy in his time for the Gout and *Iſchiatica*. The receipt he gives of it, is almoſt literally copied from Tournefort.

In fine, the faculty of Paris have adopted our medicine in the laſt edition of their *Codex Medicamentorum*, under the title of *Pulvis Arthriticus Amarus* (e), which differs from Tournefort's receipt only by having the

(d) The paſſage is: Præterea medicamenta alterantia a veteribus arthritidis antidota dicta egregii ſunt uſûs et longo tempore juvamen ſæpe magnum præſtant. Inſuper amara et adſtringentia uti herbæ chamædrys, centaurium, rad. gentianæ et ariſtolochiæ, &c. (ſiquidem experientia duce in hoc morbo comprobantur) utilia eſſe videntur, quòd pepſeos et chylificationis munia adjuvant, &c. *Willis Patholog.* Cap. 14.

(e) Pulvis arthiriticus amarus. ℞ Radicum gentianæ, raphontici, ariſtolochiæ rotundæ, foliorum chamædryos, chamæpytios ſummitatum centaurii minoris aa. q. ſ. F. omnium pulvis. Cod. Medicament. Paris Edit. 1748.

the *rhaponticum* in place of the *centaurium majus:* and this difference will hardly appear material, if the *rhaponticum* is found to be an ingredient in ſeveral of the ancient *antidoti*, and if in ſome of our books of botany and *materia medica*, the *raphonticum vulgare*, and the *centaurium majus*, are claſſed as the ſame plant.

The principal uſe I would make of all this, is only to ſhew, that Cælius Aurelianus's *diacentaureon*, and Ætius's *antidotus ex duobus centaureæ generibus*, were the ſame medicine, and are the old names for the Duke of Portland's Powder.

As to the late introduction of the medicine into this country, I have leave to mention the following particulars. We owe it to a friend of his grace the Duke of Portland, who brought the receipt with him from Switzerland, exactly copied from a domeſtic collection of approved receipts, which were his father's, who had travelled many years, and probably may have picked it up abroad: It was by this gentleman's perſuaſion that the Duke (who had been ſeverely

ſeverely treated by an hereditary Gout for ſeveral years) was induced to make trial of theſe powders, which have done him ſuch remarkable ſervice; and that the afflicted might not be deprived of the ſame means of relief which he had ſo happily experienced, his Grace ordered the ſaid receipt to be printed, and copies of it to be delivered to all who ſhould aſk for it.

Notwithſtanding the high eſteem in which the medicine ſeems to be at preſent, it may not perhaps be difficult to foretel its fate; it will do good in many caſes, for in many caſes there is reaſon to believe it extremely proper (f); but an indiſcriminate uſe

(f) This is well and wiſely ſaid. The account, however, of the effects of this powder by Dr. CULLEN, would terrify almoſt any man from its uſe, who is not previouſly well acquainted with the *uſual* termination of the Gout. "In every inſtance, ſaith the doctor, which "I have known of its exhibition for the length of time "preſcribed, the perſons, who had taken it, were in- "deed afterwards free from any inflammatory affection "of the joints; but they were affected with many "ſymptoms of the atonic Gout; and all, ſoon after "finiſhing their courſe of the medicine, have been at- "tacked with apoplexy, aſthma, or dropſy, which "proved

uſe of it, in all, will again do, what we have

" proved fatal." — What *all!*—In *every* inſtance! — Dreadful indeed! —Who would not for ever execrate PORTLAND's powder?—But hath not the Profeſſor, in ſome of the inſtances at leaſt, aſcribed thoſe effects to the powder, which are but the too common conſequences of the Gout, when left to itſelf, and when no ſuch medicine hath been taken? —Would not this appear to be the caſe from the following obſervation, which I beg to repeat here, and leave for the doctor's future conſideration,—" Multis in hydropicum morbum podagra conceſſit; quandoque vero in aſthma; horum vero ſucceſſio inevitabilis eſt."

Apoplexies too, where PORTLAND's powder is not adminiſtered, are common attendants on a receſſion of Gouty matter, " Nec vero tantum in manus, pedes, omnes articulos tales feruntur fluxiones; verum etiam in cerebrum, &c."

Before ſuch a ſevere cenſure too had been paſſed upon the medicine, we ſhould have been informed of the peculiar temperaments and habits of thoſe, who thus fell martyrs to it. The Profeſſor ſaith, " in every " inſtance which he had known of its exhibition for " the length of time preſcribed", not, in every inſtance in which he had himſelf directed it. In that caſe, indeed, eaſy credit would have been given the Profeſſor for its right application. But as this doth not evidently appear, may we not ſuppoſe, from its dreadful effects, that in ſome inſtances at leaſt, it was improperly applied, and, in others, too long continued?

For

have ſeen a like abuſe formerly did; it will bring a good medicine into diſrepute.

For the ancients, though they highly recommended ſuch remedies in the cure of the Gout, yet they added, at the ſame time, very judicious cautions, from neglecting which, and giving medicines of this kind in every caſe without diſtinction, the greateſt miſchiefs may follow. "Prodeſt pituitoſis, bilioſos autem lædit."

For my own part, I believe the medicine a good bitter or ſtomatic, and highly uſeful in certain circumſtances of the Gout. Baron VAN SWIETEN is of the ſame opinion, affirming, "that ſuch remedies are cer-"tainly of real ſervice in reſtoring vigour and ſtrength "to the viſcera," &c. adding, "that it cannot be de-"nied, but that they have been of real benefit to "many, though, perhaps, not to every gouty per-"ſon". And Dr. SYDENHAM held thoſe medicines in the higheſt eſtimation, "which by their gentle "warmth and bitterneſs ſtrengthen the ſtomach, and give "more life and firmneſs to the maſs of blood". — My great eſtobjection to it is, it's being too complex. And its uninterrupted uſe for ſuch a length of time, without ſo much as the intervention of a little Magneſia, Rhubarb, or T. Sacra, whatever alteration in the habit may occur, ſeems an exceptionable circumſtance alſo. But on the whole, I muſt think it not leſs injudicious, to extoll a medicine as at all times good, and under every circumſtance of a diſorder, than, to reprobate it, as always injurious, and good for nothing.

D.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

N° III.

A SIBERIAN PLANT recommended in the GOUT.

GRatified with the conſiderable ſhare of attention which has been ſhewn to my own attempts, to diſcover ſomething more efficacious in medical practice, than what

what hath hitherto been known, or at leaſt made public; it is with the ſame view of exciting attention to ſimilar attempts of others, that I here preſent the reader with the ſubſtance of an account which has lately appeared in a periodical publication of a Plant, " which has long been uſed in Siberia for different diſeaſes, but in Arthritical diſorders with very great ſucceſs, and alſo in caſes of Rheumatiſm. It is the rhododendron chryſanthemum, nova ſpecies, belonging to the claſs, decandria, diſcovered by Profeſſor Pallas, in his tour through Siberia. This Alpine ſhrub grows near the tops of the high mountains, named Sajanes, in the neighbourhood of the river Jeniſe, in Siberia, and delights in the ſkirts of the ſnow covered ſummits, above the region that produces trees."

" When the inhabitants of that country mean to give it in Arthritic or Rheumatic diſorders, they take about two drachms of the dried ſhrub, ſtalk and leaves, with nine or ten ounces of boiling water, and putting them into an earthen pot, they lute on the

head,

head, and place them in an oven during the night. This infuſion, for it is not allowed to boil, the ſick man drinks next morning for a doſe. It occaſions heat, together with a degree of intoxication, reſembling the effects of ſpirituous liquors, and a ſingular kind of uneaſy ſenſation in the parts affected, accompanied with a ſort of vermiculation, which is likewiſe confined to the diſeaſed parts. The patient is not permitted to quench the thirſt, which this medicine occaſions, as fluids, particularly cold water, produce vomiting, which leſſens the power of the ſpecific. In a few hours, however, all the diſagreeable effects of the doſe diſappear, commonly with two or three ſtools. The patient then finds himſelf greatly relieved of his diſorder, and hath ſeldom occaſion to repeat the medicine above two or three times to compleat a cure."

" The inhabitants of Siberia call this ſhrub Chei, or Tea, from their drinking in common, a weak infuſion of it, as we do the Chineſe plant of that name. This practice

practice ſhews that the plant, uſed in ſmall quantities, muſt be innocent."

" Profeſſor Pallas ſent, ſome time ago, ſome of this ſhrub dried, to Profeſſor Koelpin, at Stetin, who has ſince given it with ſucceſs in ſeveral caſes, particularly in what he calls the arthritica venerea, with a tophus arthriticus on the carpus, and it produced a compleat cure."

" It muſt be remarked, that the doſe which theſe hardy Siberians take, who are accuſtomed alſo to drink it as tea, would, in all probability, be too ſtrong for our countrymen; however, it is a medicine, which we may certainly give (g) with ſafety, beginning with ſmall doſes."

(g) The public charities, with which this country abounds, afford ſufficient opportunities of trying the virtues of the Siberian ſhrub. And, what one was naturally lead to expect, hath, it ſeems, lately taken place in the Infirmary at Edinburgh. Dr. HOME, in his *Chemical Experiments*, informs us, " He hath tried " the effects of this plant in the *acute* Rheumatiſm, in " ſeveral inſtances". But, I am ſorry to ſay, not with the deſired ſucceſs. " In none of the Caſes, " ſaith the doctor, do the ſymptoms of the *acute*

" Rheumatiſm appear to have been mitigated by this " medicine, though uſed in greater doſes than in " Siberia".— And, he concludes with ſaying, " the " trials were fair, and that he may venture to pro- " nounce, that, in the cure of the *acute* Rheuma- " tiſm, it is a medicine much inferior in its effects " to ſeveral others".—But, ought the matter to reſt here? It were to be wiſhed at leaſt, that farther trials ſhould be made in the *chronic* Gout or Rheumatiſm.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

N° IV.

Dr. PANTON's Account of the Treatment of the GOUT in the WEST INDIES.

THE Rev. Mr. Panton, in a very obliging manner, put into my hands a Manuſcript of his brother's, the late Dr. Panton, of Savannah la Mar, containing practical remarks on Weſt India diſeaſes. This experienced practitioner and judicious remarker of caſes, peculiar to that climate, informs us, under the article,

GOUT,

" That it is a diſorder very common

" in that part of the world, and being one
" of thoſe which we are taught to conſider
" beyond the reach of art, and in which,
" by attempts to relieve, great evil may
" be done, tho' there is very little proſpect
" of advantage; few, indeed, have been
" the attempts of medical perſons to en-
" quire properly into its effects, ſo as to
" form ſome rational ſyſtem of relief, tho'
" many have been the empirical promiſes
" of infallibly curing this diſorder, by
" means of ſecret applications, none of
" which have been ſufficiently ſucceſsful
" to ſupport their reputation for any long
" courſe of time; yet, even from theſe
" attempts, ineffectual as they ſometimes
" have been, concluſions may be drawn
" advantageous to practice."

" The nature of the internal remedies
" which have been given in this complaint,
" are kept profoundly ſecret, and little infor-
" mation could be drawn from their effects,
" either on the diſeaſe, or conſtitution in ge-
" neral; but ſuch external ones, as have been
" uſed in this country, have conſiſted of *ca-*
" *taplaſms* of ſuch vegetables as were ſuf-
" ficiently

" ficiently acrid to create a revulſion, by
" bliſtering the part that was immediately
" the ſeat of the diſorder, and thus diſ-
" charging a quantity of fluid, which
" was conſidered as a part of the peccant
" matter, and theſe applications have in
" one or two inſtances ſucceeded."

" Having obſerved, that the Gout was
" always the effect of high health and
" living, or of external injuries, ſuch as
" cold, wet, ſtrains, too violent exerciſe,
" &c. and that it was always preceeded
" by a ſenſe of feveriſh heat, oppreſſion,
" flying pains, thirſt and coſtiveneſs; this
" ſhewed how far purging was neceſſary
" to alleviate the approaching attack, and
" for this purpoſe a large doſe of *calomel*,
" adapted to the ſtrength and conſtitution
" of the patient, was found the moſt
" effectual, always giving ſome relief, and
" evidently palliating the ſeverity of the
" fit, and ſometimes even preventing it."

" The good effect of this method, in
" the firſt inſtance, ſhewed ſome proſpect
" of preventing the returns of the fit alto-
" gether, by giving the doſe at ſtated

 " periods,

" periods, in the intermiſſions between " the ſeparate fits, and by following this " practice of giving a large doſe of calo- " mel once a month or oftener, accor- " ding to the conſtitution, &c. of the " patient, the fits have been protracted to " an uncommon length of time, and even " their returns when they did come on, " were rendered unuſually mild and ſhort, " and had this effect on patients, who " continued to live in their uſual way, on " high ſauces, wines, &c."

" This, however, can be no general " rule, for tho' theſe evacuations are ſo " ſalutary when the patients are young, " ſtrong, naturally plethoric, and live high, " it may not be equally effectual for the " old, weak and tender. Yet it has ſuc- " ceeded in patients, ſo widely different " in conſtitution, that one, who in the fit " was always ſeized with convulſions, " tetanus and the ſeveral ſymptoms of " irritated nerves, and was of ſo delicate a " frame, as to be purged by only one grain " of calomel, tho' about 40 years of age, " was as effectually relieved as another who

" was

" was ſtrong, full of blood, of a moſt
" robuſt apoplectic make, and who gene-
" rally took ten, and ſometimes twenty
" grains of calomel for a doſe; in both
" caſes giving effectual relief with reſpect
" to the ſeverity, duration, and frequency
" of the fits."

" There can be no doubt, continues the
" Doctor, but that temperance with exer-
" ciſe, muſt in any conſtitution leſſen the
" violence of the diſorder, if not effectually
" cure it; but theſe are expedients that
" we are rather to wiſh than expect will
" be followed. This method, therefore,
" of expelling the morbid matter, or the
" effects of modern habits of living, ſeems
" rational, and experience has proved it
" advantageous."

" People of weak and irritable nerves,
" are generally ſubject at the height of
" the fits to ſevere convulſions, and attacks
" of the diſorder in the ſtomach, from the
" ſeverity of the pain, and in theſe caſes
" large doſes of *muſk* and *opium*, with warm
" wine and rich broths, give certain relief,
" after which the fit goes gradually off."

" From the effects of this diſ-
" order, in caſes of weak nerves, it
" might perhaps ſeem proper to recom-
" mend a more plentiful and generous
" diet, than to ſuch as are of more
" athletic and ſanguineous habits, and
" perhaps the revulſion by acrid applica-
" tions might be more adapted to the
" complaints of the former, than thoſe of
" the latter, as they are leſs liable to
" inflammatory complaints: Tho' there
" is an inſtance of a gentleman, of a robuſt
" muſcular frame, whoſe nerves were by
" no means very ſenſible, who being ſub-
" ject to this diſorder, and that with great
" ſeverity in his knees, &c. took a reſolu-
" tion of applying the *capſicum indicum*, or
" bell pepper, bruiſed by way of poultice,
" which bliſtered the part, brought on a
" great diſcharge, and gave effectual relief,
" ſince which he has had recourſe to the
" ſame method with equal effect on every
" return of the complaint."

" When the diſorder is at the extremi-
" ties, *ſweating the part* always procures
" relief, the tenſion of the veſſels being

" leſſened

" leſſened by this diſcharge. For this
" purpoſe cotton whipt very fine, and co-
" vered with a granadello, or any other
" ſmooth mild leaf, has been applied with
" ſucceſs. The cotton makes the appli-
" cation ſufficiently ſoft for the extreme
" ſenſibility of the parts, and the leaf
" preventing the evaporation of the fluid,
" which is exhaled by inſenſible per-
" ſpiration, it is conſequently abſorbed
" by the cotton, and thus produces a na-
" tural warm-bath on the part affected.
" There is, however, no doubt but this
" method might be much improved by
" applying partial *vapor-baths*, which may
" be endowed with a more powerful
" degree of heat, than that which is na-
" turally produced by the part, and thus
" by encreaſing the quantity of the eva-
" cuation, render the relief more effec-
" tual."

" In caſes where the habit is plethoric
" and robuſt, where the ſymptomatic fever
" is ſmart, the oppreſſion conſiderable, or
" the head affected; in ſhort, where there
" are certain ſigns of inflammation, there

" is

" is an abſolute neceſſity for the uſe of the
" lancet, which will almoſt inſtantly relieve
" the extreme violence of the ſymptoms,
" without any of thoſe dangerous effects
" which have been attributed to its uſe in
" Gouty conſtitutions. Experience proves
" its ſalutary effects, and, perhaps, thoſe
" which we are taught to dread are merely
" the conſequence of theory and imagi-
" nation. In fact, there ſeems to be from
" repeated experience, great reaſon to treat
" all ſuch acute diſorders, as may attack
" perſons of Gouty habits, exactly in the
" ſame manner, as if they had never
" been ſubject to that diſorder at all.
" And it is remarkable, that thoſe who by
" the evacuations already mentioned, have
" been relieved from their periodical fits
" of the Gout, have been attacked with
" intermittent, remittent, billious, and
" other fevers, to which they were never
" before ſubject, during the more frequent
" attacks of the Gout, and have been
" cured of their new diſeaſes by the uſual
" methods."

" In

" In caſes of relaxed habits from old
" age, repeated fits of the Gout, and the
" heat of the climate, &c. the uſe of the
" bark, and the cold bath, exerciſe and
" bitters, in the intervals of fits, have been
" found highly beneficial; particularly
" the latter, as there are ſome inſtances of
" perſons greatly debilitated by this diſ-
" order, who have been reſtored to health,
" and perfectly relieved by the uſe of
" *tanſy-tea* alone, drank in the morning
" faſting, and repeated occaſionally thro'
" the day. And tho' this method has not
" been equally effectual in all caſes of this
" kind, where it has been tried, yet it
" has ever contributed in lax habits to
" ſtrengthen the ſtomach, reſtore the ap-
" petite, and increaſe the digeſtive powers;
" all which, in theſe caſes, were greatly
" weakened."

" It is, perhaps, impoſſible to lay down
" any general rule for the method of
" treatment in this diſorder, as ſo much
" depends upon the age, conſtitution, way
" of living, and former diſeaſes of the
" patient; yet there is reaſon to think that

" from

" from a cloſe attention to the ſymptoms
" of the diſeaſe, and the particular cir-
" cumſtances, that attend the patient:
" that by liſtening to the voice, and dili-
" gently obſerving the operations of nature,
" without ſuffering ourſelves to be allured
" by the ſyren voice of theory; we may
" hope, at all times, to mitigate the ſeve-
" rity of the diſeaſe, to protract the periods
" of its return, to render it leſs deſtruc-
" tive to the frame, much ſeldomer fatal,
" and, perhaps, at length, aſſiſted by the
" willing concurrence of the patient, re-
" move it entirely; an event which, how-
" ever to be wiſhed, can only be expected
" from following the footſteps of nature,
" and not from the magical chicanery of
" empiriciſm."

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F I N I S.

ERRATA.

Page 125. line 6. for *approbrium*, read *opprobrium*.

A. Page 34. line 3. for *podogricis*, read *podagricis*.